

of this material still complain of low prices, as much as \$5 below the list price being quoted in some instances.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The shippers of Norway, Sweden and Russia are closing contracts for lumber for delivery to Great Britain at sharp recessions, and long as there is pressure from this source, no improvement in prices may be expected. This week we are told that a large line of fourth quality 2½ and 3x7-inch redwood battens has been sold to a London importer at £7 10s. f.o.b., which is equivalent to a reduction of tenhillings as compared with recent sales. So little business has been done, and importers show so little disposition to increase their obligations, that it has been absolutely necessary for shippers to reduce their prices in order to effect sales. Importers are still fighting off the high prices asked by Canadian shippers of spruce deals and the lower qualities of pine deals, but so far the sellers have shown no evidence that they will modify their demands. The situation is interesting if not encouraging, and it remains to be seen which side will weaken. The margin of profit to the shipper at the prices asked is not large, and as importers must be carrying light stocks, it would seem that they must of necessity replenish their supply in the near future. A rather encouraging report comes from West Hartlepool, where white pine deals are finding a ready sale and stocks are in a very limited compass.

The London dock stocks on March 31st last showed the following increases as compared with one year ago: White pine deals, 117,917 pieces; pine battens, 92,143 pieces; pine ends, 45,332 pieces; spruce deals, 44,533 pieces; spruce ends, 93,707 pieces; white pine boards, 57,971 pieces; red pine boards, 67,358 pieces. Red pine shows a decrease of 11,866 pieces of deals, 10,355 pieces of battens, and 1,061 pieces of ends, and spruce boards is in lighter supply by 17,195 pieces.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

At a meeting of the Southwest Michigan Log Driving Company held last week, it was reported that about 25,000,000 feet of logs will come out of that river this season.

Mershon, Schuette, Parker & Company, of Saginaw, Mich., last week bought 1,000,000 feet of box lumber in the Lake

Superior district, and 1,000,000 feet in Green bay.

Cornelius Hagerman, who conducted lumbering operations last winter at Le-preaux for Gregory and Dunn, of St. John, N. B., has commenced stream driving. He has about 3,000,000 feet to bring out.

A Buffalo dealer quotes the following prices on inch white pine: Uppers, \$82; selects, \$67 to \$72; fine common, \$38; No. 1 cuts, \$40; No. 2 cuts \$25; No. 1 mouldings, \$52; 1x12 shelving, \$45; 1x12 No. 1 dressing, \$38; 1x12 selected shaky dressing, \$32; 1x12 No. 1 barn, \$32; No. 2 and No. 3 barn, \$23.

Gilman Bros. & Burden, of Fredericton, N. B., who carried on lumbering operations on the Oromocto river last winter, commenced stream driving a few days ago. They have 1,000,000 feet of pine logs, which they expect to have in safe waters very soon. They are considering the advisability of manufacturing the lumber at the mouth of the river by a portable mill.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN)

ST. JOHN, N. B., April 16th, 1904.— Cedar shingles: The opening up of trade in this line has been later this spring than for many years. Comparatively few are being shipped, although inquiries are becoming more frequent and the outlook grows more hopeful day by day. The manufacturers are regaining confidence and look forward to a prosperous season. The output for this year promises to be smaller than last year's on account of the protracted cold weather, which will cause a very material shortness of the manufacturing season. The greater part of the output will be Provincial, American logs being scarcer and higher in price. The Provincial cedars are smaller and produce a lower percentage of high grades. There has been practically no change in price and those mentioned last month will still apply.

The quantity of spruce shingles manufactured in these parts is infinitesimal and at present writing none are available.

Spruce clapboards: These are very scarce and will remain so for the next two months. They are worth at present f.o.b. St. John, extras, \$41; clears, \$39; 2nd clears, \$37; No. 1, \$30; No. 2, \$20. With each succeeding year clapboards are becoming scarcer, owing to the scarcity of logs sufficiently large to serve for their

manufacture. In logs cut in the lower provinces there are practically none that will answer the purpose, while suitable Aroostook and Quebec logs are comparatively few. Stocks of clapboards are extremely low and are practically controlled by one firm, who would probably not sell at any price that would give the buyer an attractive margin.

Laths are decidedly firm and promise to be scarce and high in price during the coming year. It is rumored that as high a price as \$2.55 f.o.b. St. John for American laths has been offered. This cannot be verified, but sales of large quantities have been made during the past month for \$2.45. Provincial laths are worth from \$2.20 to \$2.25. The output this year will be largely provincial. At this season it is usual for many manufacturers to sell their year's output of laths, but this year is remarkable for a tendency to hold on the prospect of a rise in price.

The quantity of laths on the wharves in this vicinity does not exceed 800,000 and it will be mid-June before any large shipment will be ready to go forward. The sales which have been made are principally for summer and early fall delivery.

COAST SHINGLE MILLS CLOSED.

At a meeting of the shingle manufacturers of the state of Washington held at Seattle on April 14th, at which 110 mills were represented, it was decided to close down for two weeks from April 23. The meeting was composed of manufacturers both outside and in the Interstate Red Cedar Shingle Company, about equally divided between the two interests. A committee was appointed to confer with the mills and secure signatures to the agreement to close for the time specified.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Messrs. C. S. Powell & Company, exporters of joinery, Canadian and American hardwoods, etc., have opened an office at 604 Temple Building, Toronto, where they will be pleased to receive a call from any person interested in the export lumber trade.

The Laidlaw Lumber Company, Limited, has been incorporated, with a capital of \$300,000 and head office in Toronto, to acquire the lumber business now carried on under the name of R. Laidlaw Lumber Company at Toronto and Sarnia, and that conducted under the name of George H. Belton at Long, a, Ont. The incorporators are: Robert Laidlaw, W. C. Laidlaw and C. G. MacBeth, of Toronto; G. H. Belton, of London; and John McLeod, of Buffalo.

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