TRADE REVIEW.

Office of CANADA LUMBERMAN,
May 1, 1894.

THE GENERAL SURVEY.

IT may be said that the lumber trade of the season has now fairly started. Mills in the Ottawa and likewise in the Northern section of the province, and generally throughout the country, have commenced cutting. How large the plans are for the season's work, it is a little difficult to say as yet. The business has been entered upon cautiously and it is doubtful if the cut will be as large as a year ago. In the Ottawa a large part of the cut has already been disposed of, and pretty steady work there may be expected. A considerable quantity of lumber will go to the United Kingdom, sales having been made there. We hear of good sized shipments for South America. Business is not sufficiently healthy on the American side, to anticipate that there will be anything approaching the same numbers of orders for Canadian lumber taken there this spring, as was the case a year ago. As our remarks a little further on, touching the United States market, will show the lumber trade in that country is by no means in a satisfactory condition. The financial and commercial conditions of the country continue unsettled. From whatever point of view we look there are disturbing elements, not even excepting the movements of Coxey's men. Trade, quiet as it is with our neighbors, might be made still worse should there be an outbreak among the laboring classes, and matters there do not look any too promising just now. Tariff conditions also are causing trouble, and so far as lumber is concerned the possibilities in this direction have a sufficient bearing on the purchase of Canadian timbers to cause Americans to move carefully.

Work on the drives generally in all parts of the country is well started, but as stated a month ago, there is danger of considerable of the winter's cut being "hung up." The cut in any case will doubtless be smaller.

Local lumbermen report a fair business among dealers throughout the various towns of the province. One thing is favorable to the local consumption of lumber, viz., that stocks have been allowed to become very low during the winter, and wherever building operations in any community are at all large, lumber must be purchased. Shingle trade so far as we can learn will be quite active throughout the province this summer. A number of permits for building have been granted in Toronto, causing some little brightening up in this respect.

Our regular letter from British Columbia does not portend the best state of affairs in that province. We had referred before to the combination of shingle men as a means of strengthening trade in that important line of manufacture. No word has reached us of any break in this combination, so far as British Columbia manufacturers are concerned, but our correspondent tells us of a decision by the Puget Sound people to drop prices 10c. a thousand on shingles. The changes in the tariff at Ottawa have placed shingles on the free list, and there is now grave danger of British Columbia finding the Puget Sound manufacturers entering into competition with them in their Manitoba and North-West trade. Of lumber in British Columbia nothing special is to be noted. Not a few cargoes are going out for export, but it does not look as though the trade of the season would be especially heavy.

Down by the sea in New Brunswick lumbermen are anticipating an improved season's trade. They are already sending a good deal of stuff to the United Kingdom and Senator Burns, New Brunswick's lumber king, is authority for the statement that the South American lumber market is more promising than for some time, and that a fairly good business can be done in that direction.

UNITED STATES.

Taking a calm view of the lumber situation in the United States, as indicated by conditions at all the leading centres, it must be admitted that the outlook, whilst not discouraging, is by no means large. A variety of conditions are combining to give unsettledness to the lumber trade. Members yet feel the severity of the winter's depression, and would appear to have entered on the spring business halt and lame. The strong ones can endure this, but should the depression continue, it must necessarily be tough upon those who have been looking to a revival on the opening of spring, to relieve them of the severe pressure of the winter. This revival has not come. Legislators are still playing and fooling with tariff reform. And so far as lumber is concerned, the effect is that no one is disposed to buy largely, so long as they do not know what is to be the future of stocks. A doubt also exists as just how stocks stand. A good deal has been carried over from last year, but it is thought that the position of supplies on hand will be made stronger, in the first place, by a smaller cut in the woods the past winter, and that still additional strength will come from the expectation, that out of what has been cut, a good many logs will be "hung up." Should these conditions be found to prevail, a break in prices, that is feared because of the continued dullness of trade, would not be so likely to take place.

FOREIGN.

It appears likely that sufficient improvement will be shown in the lumber market in the United Kingdom this summer to give more life to trade there than has been the case for a year past. At Liverpool, Alfred Dobell & Co., report increased activity. Farnworth & Jardine, of the same place, whilst they are not sanguine of any great improvement in trade, yet think that conditions generally are better. The arrivals from British North America, they say, during the past month have been two vessels, 2,864 tons, against one vessel, 1,299 tons, during the corresponding month last year. In waney and square timbers the deliveries of the month have been light, but sufficient it is thought for the probable demands until arrival of the new import. Denny, Mott & Dickson, of London, Eng., say there is a distinct improvement in many branches of trade, especially hardwood, and there is an increased demand for consumption as the year progresses. It seems difficult to say what may be expected from South America. An impression has existed that trade there was improving, but we hear rumors again of internal war in this much unsettled country. However, at present the outlook for lumber is rather encouraging. Nothing bright can be told of Australian conditions. It has been a long siege of depression with the people of the Antipodees and there is not yet much "let up."

HARDWOODS.

In the English market the consumption of hardwoods shows an improvement. Slightly improved conditions are to be remarked of mahogany of fair quality. The United States markets are by no means lively. What distribution has taken place has not been at all general. Boston dealers, our contemporary Hardwood says, are talking hopefully that prices for hardwoods are better than for pine and spruce, but the amount going into consumption has not perceptibly increased. Stocks at no points are by any means large. The trade in Canada is steady but not especially brisk.

TORONTO, ONT.

TORONTO, May 1, 1894.

CAR OR CARGO LOTS.

1 1-4 in. cut up and better	33 00	36 00
1x10 and 12 dressing and better	20 00	22 00
1x10 and 12 mill run	16 00	17 00
1x10 and 12 common	13 00	14 00
1x10 and 12 spruce culls	10 00	11 00
1x10 and 12 mill culls	10 00	11 00
1 inch clear and picks	28 00	32 00
1 inch dressing and better	20 00	22 00
1 inch siding mill run	14 00	15 00
1 inch siding common	12 00	13 00
1 inch siding ship culls	11 00	12 00
1 inch siding mill culls	9 00	10 00
Cull scantling	8 00	9 00
1 1-2 and thicker cutting up plank	24 00	26 00
1 inch strips 4 in. to 8 in. mill run	14 00	15 00
1 inch strips, common	12 00	13 00
1 1-4 inch flooring		16 00
1 1-2 inch flooring		16 00
XXX shingles, 16 inch	2 50	2 60
XX shingles 16 inch	1 50	1 60
Lath, No. 1		2 15
Lath, No. 2	1 80	1 85

YARD QUOTATIONS.

Mill cull boards and scantling	$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	13 00
" stocks	16 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft	14 00
" " " 18 ft	15 00
" " " 20 ft	16 00
" " " 22 ft	17 00
" " " 24 ft	19 00
" " " 26 ft	20 00
" " " 28 ft	22 00
" " " 30 ft	24 00
" " " 32 ft	27 00
" " " 34 ft	29 50
	23 50
" " " 36 ft	31 00
" " " 38 ft	33 00
" " 40 to 44 ft	37 00
Cutting up planks, 1 and thicker, dry	25 00 28 00
" board	18 00 24 00
Dressing blocks	16 00 20 00
Picks Am. inspection	30 00

F. M.		
1 1-2 in. flooring, dres'd	26 00	30 00
" " rough	18 00	22 00
" " dres'd	25 00	28 00
1 1-4 in. flooring, undressed, B.M.	16 00	18 00
1 1-4 in. flooring, dres'd	18 00	20 00
" " undres'd	12 00	15 00
Beaded sheeting, dressed	20 00	35 00
Clapboarding, dres'd.		12 00
XXX sawn shingles per M.	2 60	2 70
Sawn lath		2 60
Red Oak	30 00	40 00
White "	37 00	45 00
Basswood, No. 1 and 2	28 00	30 00
Cherry, No. 1 and 2	70 00	90 00
White ash, 1 and 2	24 00	35 00
Black ask, 1 and 2	20 00	30 00

HARDWOODS--PER M. FEET CAR LOTS.

Ash, white,	1 to 2 in.		$18 00	$20 00
" "	2½ to 4		20 00	24 00
" black,	1 " 1½		16 00	18 00
Birch, sq.,	1 " 4		17 00	20 00
" "	4x4 " 8x8		20 00	22 00
" red	x " ½		20 00	22 00
" "	2 " 4		22 00	25 00
" yellow	1 " 4		14 00	15 00
Basswood	1 " 1¼		15 00	16 00
"	1½ " 2		16 00	18 00
Butternut	1 " 1½		23 00	25 00
"	2 " 3		25 00	28 00
Chestnut	1 " 2		2 00	25 00
Cherry	1 " 1½		50 00	60 00
"	2 " 4		60 00	65 00
Elm, soft	1 " 1½		$11 00	$12 00
" "	2 " 3		12 00	13 00
" rock	1 " 1¼		14 00	16 00
" "	1½ " 3		15 00	18 00
Hickory	1½ " 2		28 00	30 00
Maple	1 " 1½		16 00	17 00
"	2 " 4		17 00	18 00
Oak, red, p'n	1 " 1½		28 00	30 00
" "	2 " 4		30 00	32 00
" white "	1 " 1½		28 00	30 00
" " "	2 " 4		30 00	35 00
" quart'd	1 " 2		48 00	52 00
Walnut	1 " 3		85 00	100 00
Whitewood	1 " 2		32 00	36 00

OTTAWA, ONT.

OTTAWA, May 1, 1894.

Pine, good sidings, per M feet, b.m.	$32 00	40 00
Pine, good strips, " " "	27 00	35 00
Pine, good shorts, " " "	20 00	27 00
Pine, 2nd quality sidings, per M feet, b.m.	20 00	25 00
Pine, 2nd quality strips, " " "	18 00	22 00
Pine, 2nd quality shorts, " " "	15 00	18 00
Pine, shipping cull stock, " " "	14 00	16 00
Pine, box cull stock, " " "	11 00	13 00
Pine, s.c. strips and sidings " " "	11 00	14 00
Pine, mill cull	8 00	10 00
Lath, per M	1 60	1 90

QUEBEC, QUE.

QUEBEC, May 1, 1894.

WHITE PINE—IN THE RAFT.

	cts.	cts.
For inferior and ordinary according to average, quality etc., measured off	14 @	18
For fair average quality, according to average, etc., measured off.	16	20
For good and good fair average, " " " " "	23	27
For superior " " " " "	28	30
In shipping order " " " " "	29	35
Waney board, 18 to 19 inch " " " " "	30	36
Waney board, 19 to 21 inch " " " " "	37	40

RED PINE—IN THE RAFT.

Measured off, according to average and quality	14	22
In shipping order, 35 to 45 feet " "	22	30

OAK—MICHIGAN AND OHIO.

By the dram, according to average and quality	45	51

ELM.

By the dram, according to average and quality, 45 to 50 feet	30	32
" " " " 30 to 35 feet	25	28

ASH.

14 inches and up, according to average and quality	30	34

BIRCH.

16 inch average, according to average and quality	20	23

TAMARAC.

Square, according to size and quality	17	19
Flatted, " " "	15	18

STAVES.

Merchantable Pipe, according to qual. and sp'cfct'n—nominal	$330	$350
W. O. Puncheon, Merchantable, according to quality	90	100

DEALS.

Bright, according to mill specification, $115 to $123 for 1st, $78 to $82 for 2nd, and $37 to $42 for 3rd quality.
Bright spruce, according to mill specification, $40 to $43 for 1st, $27 to $28 for 2nd, $23 to $25 for 3rd, and $19 to $21 for 4th quality.

SAGINAW, MICH.

SAGINAW, Mich., May 1.—Continued stagnation in the lumber trade is noticeable here. True, we are entering upon the busy season, but commercial conditions seem so unsettled, that the lumber business takes on no particular life; certainly nothing approaching what would be expected at this season of the year. Wood-working concerns, generally, are running on short time and many are closed down. Saw mills, in not a few cases, are unable to get moving with any vigor for the reason that stocks of logs have not yet come forward. Those depending on Canadian logs do not anticipate any large supplies before the first of June. Prices remain somewhat firm when we consider all these conditions.

FINISHING LUMBER—ROUGH.

Uppers, 1, 1¼ and 1½	45 00	Fine common, 1 in	35 00
2 in	46 00	1¼ and 1½ in	36 00
Selects, 1 in	40 00	2 in	37 00
1¼ and 1½	41 00	C, 7, 8 and 9 in	30 00
2 in	42 00		

SIDING.

Clear, ½ in	24 00	C, ½ in	19 00
⅞ in	48 00	⅞ in	34 00
Select, ½ in	21 00	No. 1, ½ in	13 00
⅞ in	40 00	⅞ in	23 00

TIMBER, JOIST AND SCANTLING.

2x4 to 10x10, 12, 14 and 16 ft.	$11 00	20 ft	14 00
18 ft	13 00	22 and 24 ft	15 00

For each additional 2 ft. add $1; 12 in. plank and timber $1 extra; extra for sizes above 12 in.

SHINGLES.

XXX 18 in. Climax	3 65	18 in. X (cull)	1 00
XXX Saginaw	3 40	XXX shorts	2 25
XX Climax	2 25	XX	1 50
18 in. 4 in. c. b.	1 25		

LATH.

Lath, No 1, white pine	2 25	Lath, No. 2, W. pine, Norway	1 65

NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORK, May 1.—Trade is a long way short of giving evidence of even a fairly good spring and summer business in lumber. There is a little sorting up, as building operations commence to open out, but it is quite noticeable that everyone is moving very cautiously in their buying. It is a little difficult to say just how prices will shape this season. Queried on this point lumbermen are apt to point to the tariff and say that