

QUEBEC TIMBER TRADE.

The annual trade circular, by Messrs. J. B. Forsyth & Co., has just been issued at Quebec. It says: We have again the pleasure of laying before the Trade our annual returns of Supply, Export and Stock wintering at this Port with the usual comparative statements, prices current, arrivals, &c., &c., all of which have been most carefully compiled.

Owing to the quantity of ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence this spring vessels were detained in a most unusual manner, and few made their appearance before the end of May, when they commenced to arrive very freely; and notwithstanding the large number in port at the same time, they were as a rule loaded with dispatch. The arrivals of steamships exceeds those of previous years, and are more than double of what they were five years ago, being 261 steamers 492,670 tons this year, against 215 steamers 827,647 tons in 1879; in 1875 we had them to be 117 steamers 171,649 tons, and 89 steamers 113,287 tons in 1870. While this large increase in the carrying trade is done by steam, there is no diminution in sailing ships, 895 vessels 706,346 tons being entered against 666 vessels 492,670 tons last year. It will also be observed that 634 sailing vessels 553,461 tons cleared at this Port (lumber laden) this season.

When we penned our remarks just a year ago, we were able to state that a decided improvement had taken place in the Timber trade, and "with increased consumption, prices tending upwards in the British markets, we may look forward hopefully to the future." Happily for all interested the expectations of the most sanguine have been fully realized; the manufacturers after contending with three years of great depression, during which time they were often compelled to sell at less than the cost of production, have this year felt the benefit of prices which must have left very handsome returns, and were in many cases unprecedentedly high.

The trade of this port is in a sounder and more satisfactory state than it has been for years; the short supply of all woods this season, as will be noticed by glancing at the supply returns, as well as the full average export leaving us with exceedingly light stocks, the greater portion of which are held by the Shippers and which must suffice not only for the spring shipments, but also for part of the summer requirements.

WHITE PINE.—Square.—The market opened last spring with prices in advance of what they had closed at the autumn previous, considerable number of old rafts changing hands at satisfactory rates; but with the arrival of fresh timber came a more decided improvement, and high figures were demanded and obtained during the remainder of the season. The maximum having been reached when some of the last transactions in choice wood took place. In examining the supply returns a discrepancy occurs which should be accounted for, the figures showing 4,243,285 feet measured, against 2,510,762 in 1879; yet we know the manufacture last winter was little over 2½ million feet. The fact is, those many rafts were laid up on the way to market in 1879, consequently were measured this season, while some lots of square and waney wintered over in the Coves unmeasured. The export is greatly in excess of that of either 1878 or 1879, and equal to the average of the past ten years, while the stock wintering is one-half of what it has usually been for the last twenty-five years.

In looking at the old circulars we cannot find any returns showing such a small quantity of white pine until we come to the year 1854 when square and waney in port measured 7,537,104 feet.

This stock on hand also contains about the usual proportion of common and inferior wood, suitable only for local requirements, for which there has been a steady demand all season, owing to harbour, railway and other works at present in course of construction, which demand is likely to increase if

other contemplated improvements are carried out.

Concerning the manufacture this winter, it is impossible to write with any great certainty about it. On the Old "wa" the "cut" will, it is stated, not exceed nine million feet of square and waney, even if it is all driven out of the small streams; while on the St. Lawrence and in Michigan, so much depends on the quantity of snow and its duration, that unless the hauling is favorable, a large proportion is liable to remain in the woods. In any case, the supply is not likely to exceed the average, and it must be borne in mind that the whole of last year's production has come to market, and apart from the small quantity wintering, we have to rely solely upon the new supply (always liable to be curtailed by a dry spring) for the shipments, not only of next summer and autumn, but also for the spring of 1882. We must also remind those of our readers who are not manufacturers, that the cost of producing this winter will be greater than last, owing to the enhanced rate of wages, &c.

WANAY has been in good request all season, the old lots finding purchasers at high rates. The stock now wintering is exceedingly light, barely sufficient for spring wants, and is chiefly held by the Shipping Houses. Lots to arrive early next season if not contracted for, must meet with ready sale. The great demand and high prices now paid for saw logs in Michigan and the West, may interfere materially with the production of Wanay, and apart from the moderately small quantity making on the Ottawa, it is estimated that about 1½ to 1½ millions may come from elsewhere.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880 { Square	4,244,285		
Wanay	2,235,600		
1879 { Square	2,510,762		
Wanay	1,599,635		
11,552,560	1880 { 6,197,318 Square.		
	797,346 Wanay.		
5,300,440	1879 { 12,139,623 Square.		
	2,217,888 Wanay.		

RED PINE.—Choice and good wood has been scarce and in request all season, the supply of this quality being limited as Lumbermen find difficulty in procuring it. The returns from the cutters' office show a good deal more than the manufacture of last winter from the same causes as those referred to in our remarks about white pine. The shipment has been nearly double that of 1879, and the stock wintering which comprises a large quantity of old and inferior wood is below the average of the past five years. The manufacture this spring will be light, and cannot arrive in time for spring requirements.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	1,056,167..	1,433,200..	1,372,572
1879....	741,499..	813,800..	1,669,395

OAK.—This wood has felt the advance in prices as much as any and has been in request in season, especially good parcels. The production was moderate last winter, and notwithstanding that considerable remained behind at the rafting grounds from the previous years the receipts amount only to 1,790,230 feet. The export has run up to 2,316,840, leaving a stock on hand of 656,026 with which to commence shipment next season, a little over one-half of the quantity wintering last year and about one-third of the average of the past ten. This is the smallest stock we find recorded since 1863 when it was as low as 651,145 feet, and both scarce and dear the following spring.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	1,790,236..	2,316,840..	656,026
1879....	835,993..	1,681,000..	1,149,208

ELM.—The supply exceeds last year by about 600,000 feet, the export has been very large and the stock wintering unusually light. Most of this has been "rock" of choice quality and has met with a ready sale; it is a difficult wood to procure, and the cost of standing timber is very high. The production for next season will be about an average one.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	937,283..	1,041,800..	237,610
1879....	336,461..	544,040..	331,536

ASH.—The returns show an improvement, and the demand for fresh wood being active, it has been in good request all season. Many old lots have been moved off, and the stock wintering is unusually light.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	245,480..	293,540..	136,319
1879....	17,161..	172,480..	265,840

BIRCH.—This is about the only wood which was too heavily produced last winter and

which has been difficult of sale all season. Owing to the very light stock in 1879, and high prices then ruling, many were induced to go into manufacturing this wood, but in the face of a heavy stock wintering and slight demand, operations will be greatly curtailed this winter.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	574,314..	558,840..	176,693
1879....	121,095..	190,480..	31,629

TAMARAC.—This wood enters so little into consumption, that we must recommend our friends to discontinue the manufacture of it at present. Altho' very valuable for ship-building purposes, it has never been largely exported, and with the decline in ship-building its requirements cease. Should the ship-building trade with France revive, and which is much to be desired, this wood will again come into request.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	30,889..	Nil..	112,991
1879....	6,691..	Nil..	35,727

STAVES.—Both Standard and beech have been in good demand, and very scarce during the latter part of the season. Our stave trade has dwindled down from a once large and prosperous business, which it was some twenty years ago, and has passed to a great extent into the hands of the Americans. In 1863, 2,211 M. of Pipe, and 3,564 M. of Puncheon, were shipped from this Port. Prices are exceedingly high as will be seen by referring to our prices current, the stock wintering the lightest on record.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880 { PIPE	196..	392..	206
W. I.	483..	921..	271
1879 { PIPE	180..	660..	405
W. I.	169..	843..	770

DEALS.—Pine.—The supply and export show a wonderful increase in this branch of the Lumber trade, and when we take into consideration the fact that Deals shipped from the District of Montreal are not included in these returns, we have to admit that this branch of the lumber business is considerably on the increase. It is estimated that only about 45,000 to 50,000 Deals, included in our supply came from Michigan, the remainder being of Canadian manufacture. Deals have been in good demand all season, the heavy shipments in June and July causing them to be at one time very scarce. Prices have been good, and the large sales made to London firms some weeks ago stiffened the market, notwithstanding the rather unfavourable accounts from Great Britain. We do not believe the supply next year can much exceed that of 1880, while the cost of procuring logs will be greater, especially in the Province of Quebec, owing to the higher Government dues to be exacted.

The stock wintering in this market is unusually light, and has not been as low since 1872.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	5,320,000..	5,823,263..	1,626,158
1879....	3,007,573..	4,202,219..	2,223,406

SPRUCE.—Have also been in good demand and shipped in large quantities. The dry spring and summer keeping back the logs, and causing exceptionally high prices to be paid. The stock wintering is light.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1880....	3,590,000..	3,200,130..	515,110
1879....	2,474,865..	2,852,500..	682,634

FREIGHTS opened at 26s. Timber and 67s. 6d. Deals to Liverpool, 67s. 6d. Deals, and 27s. Timber to London, 25s. Timber and 65s. Deals to Clyde, closing at 30s. Timber, 75s. Deals to Liverpool, 70s. Deals to London, and 28s. Timber and 72s. 6d. Deals to Clyde.

LIST OF "COVES" AND OWNERS.

The following is a list of the various "Coves" where the stock on hand mentioned above is wintered. The names of the owners are also given, viz:—

Jacques Cartier Mills—E. L. Sewell.
Alexandria—J. Bell Forsyth & Co.
Cap Rouge—P. & W. Comy.
Dalhousie—Forsyth & Dalkin.
Victoria—M. Rockett.
Ring's End—E. H. Jackson.
New London—O'Connell & Co.
Union—M. Stevenson & Co.
Sillery—R. R. Dobell & Co.
Do Safety & Bridgewater.
Do Sharpley, Bros. & Co.
Do James Bowen.
Pointe a Pizrau—R. R. Dobell & Co.
St. Michael's—Cook Bros. & Co.
Woodfield Harbour—S. Connolly.
Spencer—Knight Bros. & Co.
Wolfe's—John Roche.

Cape and L'Ange des Meres—George Robinson.

J. H. Clint's.
Stadacona—J. & W. D. Brown.
St. Charles—John Home.
New Waterford—A. F. A. Knight & Co.
Montmorency Mills—G. B. Hall & Co.
St. Nicholas Mills—W. G. Ross & Son.
Chaudiere Basin—J. Breakley.
North Liverpool—Ritchie Bros.
Do Benson Bros.
Do Hamilton Bros.
Etchemin—E. Atkinson & Co.
Hadlow West—G. B. Symes Young.
Mill Cove—S. J. Bennett.
Hadlow—Price Bros. & Co.
St. Lawrence—W. Dock & W. Co.
Windsor—G. B. Symes Young.
South Quebec—Warehouse Co.
Indian Cove—A. Gilmour & Co.
Do James Patton & Co.
Do J. McLaren & Co.

Crooked Lake.

The Port Hope *Guide's* correspondent, writing from Crooked Lake says:—"Since my last, everything has been going on as usual; trees falling before the woodman's axe and teams continuing to haul them to the brink of the lake.

LUMBERING.

With regard to lumbering, you will please allow me to say a few words to lumbermen in general. There are two points in which they make a great mistake; first in setting wages equal, notwithstanding the difference in men. Now, from former experience, I contend that they lose thereby. Place three choppers in a gang, two are excellent choppers, the third an indifferent or worthless one; those two soon become weary of aiding him to complete a day's work, and will naturally conclude that they will do no more than he, as they receive no more wages. Secondly, stinting men to ascertain the number of logs per day; by so doing they lose in this wise—men will cull and leave timber behind in order to fill their counts. Men should have a foreman competent to judge of a day's work for a gang, let the timber be what it will. Such foreman ought to be one of experience, who has filled the place of chopper, sawyer, skidder, loader and teamster. From such experience, if a small count is given at night, he next day, by going over the ground, could judge whether work was done or not. Men should be paid according to their work. I have seen both methods tried, and must say my plan proved the best for the lumberer. If any one can prove to the contrary, I am ready to hear him.

The Chicago Lumber Trade.

Chicago lumber traffic shows less increase over 1879 than might have been expected, considering the general activity in business in the North-West and the large immigration. The receipts are nearly all by water, so that they are now nearly complete for the year. There have been 1,618,863 thousand feet, against 1,408,739 last year, an increase of 109,624 thousand, or 7½ per cent. The receipts in 1879 showed a large increase over several previous years, however, and this year's receipts are the largest ever known. The shipments down to the end of November were reported at 762,054 thousand this year, against 691,767—an increase of 8.7 per cent. The shipments are nearly all by rail, and these will continue till the end of the year, though not at a very rapid rate, as the lumber cannot very well be used this season. At Albany, the great lumber market of the East, the receipts for the season are reported at 361,598 thousand, less than one-fourth of the Chicago receipts. The shipments from the Saginaw lumber district (which mostly go south and east) were 769,672 thousand, and 90,000 or 18 per cent more than last year. One reason why the Chicago shipments have not grown more probably is that an unusually large part of the immigration this year, and of the demand for lumber, has been in Western Minnesota and Dakota, which get comparatively little lumber from Chicago, but have nearer sources of supply at the mills above St. Paul and in Wisconsin east and north-east of St. Paul.

LARGE TIMBER OPERATIONS.—The Hamilton *Times* says that Mr. M. F. Vansickle, of the township of Ancaster, has now three gangs of men making timber, and intends taking out 60,000 cubic feet this winter for the Quebec market.