

advance in the price of uppers and selects. The tone of the market there is the strongest that it has been since Christmas; orders and enquiries have increased materially. The lower grades are meeting with more inquiry and are likely to be advanced, a feature which gives much encouragement to the trade. The hardwood market is also enjoying a degree of activity. Elm, basswood and maple are selling very well.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British timber market has not yet made a decided move towards recovering from the recent depression. There has, it is true, been some improvement, but importers are pursuing a policy of precaution and cannot be induced to purchase excepting on a very moderate scale. It may be that there will be a gradual return of complete confidence, which in the end is probably most to be desired. Some of the largest importers predict that the market will be comparatively strong for the first six months of the year, but they seem very uncertain about the course of trade after that time. The curtailment in operations which has been decided upon in Norway and Sweden cannot but have a beneficial effect upon the market, and if the present line of policy is pursued, the import of timber into the United Kingdom this year will witness a further reduction. At recent auction sales buying has been quite active, stimulated no doubt by the higher prices which shippers are asking. Spruce prices have been fairly well maintained, with the exception of 3x7 stock, which is slightly lower at Bristol and Liverpool. The receipts of spruce deals by the regular liners from St. John and Halifax has had the effect of checking any further advance in prices. In London second quality 3x9 spruce is selling at £10 per standard, and third quality at £9 10s landed at the dock. Several contracts have recently been placed for birch squares, the price of which is about £7 10s per standard.

TIMBER LIMIT TRANSACTIONS.

A couple of weeks ago the Delta Lumber Company, of Detroit, disposed of their timber limit in Mackenzie township, on the Georgian Bay, to Messrs. Avery and Eddy, of Saginaw, and Glenn, of Duluth. It is reported that the consideration was in the neighborhood of \$275,000. The Delta Lumber Company purchased this limit from the Holland & Emery Lumber Company in 1895. It comprises nine square miles, is a very desirable limit as to location, and can be lumbered very cheaply. It contains about 5,000,000 feet of red pine, the remainder being white pine.

The Victoria Harbor Lumber Company, Toronto, recently purchased the north half of Erie township from the Detroit Lumber Company. It comprises 40 1/2 square miles, the pine of which has been mostly cut off, but there is a considerable quantity of hemlock and cedar.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Attention in the local lumber market is fixed on the future. Present dealings are few. The event of the midwinter business is found in the operations of the Edwin S. Hartwell Lumber Company, of Chicago. For several weeks past the western concern, one of the largest of its kind, has had a representative in Ottawa negotiating for the purchase of first class white pine lumber. He has made good use of his time, and has secured a large slice of the supply of Ottawa and neighbouring towns. The sales in the aggregate represent about \$135,000 in money, and 7,500,000 feet in lumber.

Large purchases were made from J. R. South Hill Lumber Company, Gillies Bros., of Braeside, McLachlin Bros., of Amprior, and Lemay & Company, Montreal. All the above stock, except that secured from the Hull Lumber Company, operating the Mason mill, has been shipped. The freight alone, at \$5 per M, represented an expenditure of about \$35,000, and the duty at \$2 per M another \$15,000. The same firm has closed a contract for the 1902 cut of the Peters mill at Parry Sound. It secured the cut for 1901, about 10,000,000 feet, and the coming season it is estimated will find the saws quite as busy.

The lumber already shipped was sent by the Canada Atlantic and Grand Trunk Railways to Chicago. The opening of navigation, however, will probably see a change of route, as boat shipments can then be made from Parry Sound and Depot Harbor, the terminus of the Ottawa & Parry Sound branch of the C.A.R.

The Hartwell concern has large factories in Chicago, where the Canadian pine will be utilized. It is not at all unlikely that the firm will be a steady bidder in coming seasons for the product of the Ottawa and neighboring mills. It must have the lumber, as the supply of the Western States is becoming exhausted. Indications would seem to prove that the millowner of the Ottawa district has in Chicago a market that will rival that of the Eastern States. This latest development of the trade has another interest for the lumber trade. The large purchase of high grade lumber by the Chicago concern has made a marked reduction in the available local supply of the better grades of white pine lumber. For this reason, coupled with the increasing local demand, prices are bound to continue firm, with

every prospect of an advance. "Lumber is lumber nowadays" remarked a dealer recently, "and the man who is waiting for prices to ease has a long wait before him. On reliable authority it is learned that the cut of the McLachlin mill at Amprior for 1902 has also been sold, making another marked reduction in future available stocks.

Unlike the British buyers, the Chicagoians have had no fault to find with the Ottawa sorting. The board lumber has been well selected and satisfactory in every sense to the western buyers. Hence it would not be surprising if early negotiations were closed for still more of the Ottawa mill cut of 1902.

The prevalence of smallpox of mild type in the lumber camps may have the effect of reducing the log cut on the limits this season. In several instances camps have had to be abandoned on account of lack of

Lumber Company, has been in the city for several days arranging for the purchase and installation of new machinery in the mill. It is the intention to change it from a water to a steam mill. Circular and gang saws are to be taken out and two double-cutting saws and re-saw installed. The box factory which the company recently built will start operations soon on a large contract for boxes for a Canadian manufacturing house.

The death of Hon. R. R. Dobell was deeply regretted in local lumber circles. He, as head of the firm of Dobell, Beckett & Co., was a leading spirit in the British export business. The firm has a large office in the Capital.

Mr. Frank Hawkins, private secretary to the late Hon. Mr. Dobell, has taken a position in the Quebec office of the firm.

OTTAWA, January 27th, 1902.

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