

conditions. If the market does not improve it is quite likely that several manufacturers will greatly curtail their operations and that others will take out no logs whatever. This disposition is a strong argument in favor of maintaining the present prices of lumber.

New Brunswick cedar shingles are offering in excess of the demand and there has been an increased number of sales at the low basis of \$3.20 for Extras at Boston rate of freight. This would seem to present a good opportunity for dealers to acquire a supply of shingles, as when the fall trade commences and the Presidential election is out of the way, there will doubtless be a reaction to higher prices.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The aggregate cost of buildings for which permits have been issued so far this year in the city of Winnipeg exceeds \$6,000,000. This vast amount of building will call for a large quantity of lumber and is responsible for considerable activity in lumber circles. The consumption throughout the entire North-West is heavy, and as the yield of wheat promises to be the largest on record, dealers are disposed to stock up to some extent in anticipation of a continuance of the present healthy demand.

A late event of interest to British Columbia lumbermen was the adoption of a 40 cent rate on fir, hemlock and spruce lumber shipped from the Coast mills to Manitoba points. Up to the present time the 40 cent rate applied to fir lumber only, but the C. P. R. have now extended the rate to included spruce and hemlock. It is hoped eventually that a similar rate will be given on cedar also.

UNITED STATES.

The lumber outlook in the United States has brightened and the feeling of confidence is more pronounced. Statistics published by the Construction News shows that in the twenty-three leading cities there was a notable increase in building operations during the month of June as compared with the same month last year. The increase is equal to forty-two per cent. and shows that there has been a marked revival of building. The belief that this activity will continue throughout

the season is in part responsible for the feeling of hopefulness which now pervades the lumber trade. The promise of an average yield of wheat and corn is also a favorable factor. Throughout the Eastern States there is a very fair demand for the lower grades of white pine, but it cannot be said that the upper grades are showing much life, and some buyers are still deferring purchases in the hope of being able to buy at lower prices. But dealers are not carrying large stocks and will be compelled to buy moderately if for nothing more than to supply requirements. Therefore, there is likely to be a sufficient movement to prevent prices of uppers from sagging any further, while the lower grades might easily be advanced.

Some business is doing in hardwoods, but it lacks snap. Plain oak is more active than any other lumber, and there has been an improvement of about \$2 per thousand. White ash is also a good seller in the Boston market. White pine lath are worth at Buffalo \$3.60 for No. 1 and \$3 for No. 2 and Norway.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The slightly improved tone which we recently announced has continued. Buyers are a little more willing to acquire lumber when there is anything to commend its purchase. Although the market for Canadian lumber may truly be said to be a little firmer, prices are not notably higher. The holders of white pine are not willing to sacrifice their stock, knowing that the supply is limited. Red pine is also in strong hands, and as the decline has been considerable an early recovery would be but natural. There has been a little more contracting for spruce deals, the basis being about £9 per standard for Quebec thirds. Of the Canadian hardwoods ash and elm are about the best at the present time. Square and wane pine lumber is firm, but the demand is not active.

The improvement in the British market was not reflected in the prices realized at the last public sale in London, when 3 x 9 inch second quality, 12 feet long, brought only £9 10s. per standard. For third quality £7 15s. was obtained. These prices, particularly in the first instance, leave no profit to the importer.

STOCKS AND PRICES:

The Sturgeon river drive of over 17,000,000 logs was finished last week.

The barque Enterprise is about to load lumber at Wentworth, N.S., for the River Platte.

Forty-seven vessels have reached the Tonawandas this month, with a total of 33,423,061 feet of lumber.

S. O. Fisher, of Bay City, Mich., who stocks the Dolben & McEwen saw mill at Blind River, Ont., is reported to have sold a block of lumber to go east.

The barge Three Brothers arrived at Owen Sound, Ont., recently from Boyne City, Mich., with about 500,000 feet of hardwood lumber for Keenan Bros., Limited.

The tug Arbutus recently brought to Owen Sound a raft of 400,000 feet of maple and beech logs for the North American Bent Chair Company. The logs were cut on the peninsula.

The Fredericton Boom Company, Fredericton, N. B., had rafted up to July 15th 46,000,000 feet of logs at the Douglas and Lincoln booms. This is about one-third of the quantity likely to go through the booms this season.

J. D. McLean, Secretary of the Department of Indian Affairs, is asking for tenders up to August 19th for the white and red pine, tamarac and cedar timber of 9 inches and over in diameter at the stump, standing and lying on Indian Reserves Nos. 26A, containing 4,850 acres, and 26B, containing 2,600 acres, on Rainy Lake, district of Rainy river.

Following is a comparative statement of timber, etc., measured and culled at Quebec up to 6th July, as reported by the Supervisor of Cullers:

	1902	1903	1904
	Cu. Ft.	Cu. Ft.	Cu. Ft.
Wanap White Pine	1,256,663	611,480	517,880
White Pine	257,197	50,600	69,920
Red Pine	45,231	40	2,000
Oak	339,071	380,640	121,760
Elm	442,046	216,000	131,400
Ash	46,931	34,160	12,240
Birch and Maple	86,110	122,840	111,690

The exports of lumber from St. John, N.B., sawn at mills owned by Americans, during the three months ending June 30, were valued at \$140,793.08, made up as follows: Long lumber, \$118,375.16; shingles, \$13,065.08; lath, \$9,352.84. In the

same period the New Brunswick lumber sent from that port to the United States was valued at \$71,742.26, made up as follows: Long lumber, \$24,124.59; lath, \$3,681.23; shingles, \$5,807.97; pilings, \$4,759.40; staves, \$237.38.

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Can you cut birch into Squares, &c. We can also take birch cut on the sweep with a jigger or small band saw. Large quantities required. Write in first instance to "Finance," c/o CANADA LUMBERMAN.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

OTTAWA, July 18, 1904.—The report of a decline in lumber is not given credence by Ottawa and Ottawa district manufacturers and wholesalers. Careful inquiry failed to show any weakening or tendency to weakening outside the English market. As has been already reported, square timber has dropped about ten cent: from the ten per cent. advance at which contracts were made last fall. True, business with the States has been very slack, but the stagnation of trade is not taken as an indication of a weakening in prices. Lumbermen are notorious for their reluctance to figure in print, so that names cannot often be used. A local wholesaler said today, "I would like to know where prices are weakening, it's certainly not around Ottawa. Only last week I was offered a block of high grade lumber, but at an advance of \$2 on the figure ruling a year ago."

A manufacturer said, "While there may be isolated instances where prices have become easier, there has been no decline that could be looked on as indicating a weakening in general in any line."

As a matter of fact, the manufacturers would not be affected by any decline, as the Ottawa Valley cut is practically all out of

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