

UNITED STATES.

The reviva of industrial activity throughout the United States during the past four months, or since it became certain that there would be an abundant yield of corn and cotton, has probably done more than anything else to strengthen the lumber market. The iron and steel industry is steadily improving and prices have continued to advance. The number of orders placed for furnace products to be delivered next spring is quite large and there is a disposition to contract for future requirements in nearly all lines. Yellow pine is the most active lumber. Manufacturers are even finding difficulty in filling orders, and prices are about \$2 higher than they were last fall, with indications of a further advance. Compared with six months ago, the conditions are decidedly favorable. In white pine the movement is not large, but stocks are in good shape and the outlook for the ensuing year is all that could be desired. Not much business will be booked before the middle of January, although wholesale dealers may take advantage of the intervening period to contract for the mill product.

The demand for hardwoods has declined during the past ten days, but this lull is regarded as only temporary. There is a good trade in birch and oak for interior finishing purposes. The supply of plain white and red oak is very small and in consequence prices have steadily advanced. Fir and second are held at \$40 for Chicago delivery, while \$47 is asked at Boston. Birch is in greater supply but none too plentiful and prices are strong. Elm probably comes next in point of strength. Holders of hemlock are showing confidence in the situation. It is expected that the cut will be small. Buffalo reports a scarcity of 12 and 14 foot lengths.

Conditions affecting white pine lath are unchanged. The consumption at this season of the year is light, but nevertheless the demand continues to be in excess of the supply. In the Western States lath is also scarce. New Brunswick cedar shingles are slightly firmer, and it is understood that some of the larger manufacturers are holding out for \$3.35 for Extras for Boston delivery.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Indications of an improvement in the British lumber market are increasing. Spruce lumber has been one of the first to feel the effects of the revival in the cotton industry, and the indications are that the consumption during the winter months will reduce the stocks at the leading importing centres to a low point. Holders of both pine and spruce are apparently satisfied that the available supply will be absorbed before next year's shipments reach the market, and there is therefore little incentive to cut prices. The London stock of spruce is very moderate, but at Liverpool and Manchester the supply is proportionately larger.

There has as yet been very little buying for next season, importers preferring to wait until after the holidays. In the meantime representatives of Quebec shippers are arranging their stock lists and getting ready for increased activity after the turn of the year.

Swedish shippers are doing considerable business with the Continent, but very little with English buyers. Prices so far show a considerable increase on those of last fall. Norway flooring has been sold on the basis of £8 1s. 3d. to £8 5s. c.i.f. Cardiff.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Wm. A. Hays, of Millville, N. B., has bought a tract of timber land near Woodstock which he will log this winter.

The Musquash Lumber Company, of Musquash, N. B., have been given a contract to supply 150,000 ties for the New Brunswick Southern Railway.

There is a great scarcity of No. 1 white pine lath in Wisconsin. At Marinette they are selling at \$3 50 a thousand, the highest price ever known.

George L. Wells, of Vancouver, B. C., is reported to have sold a tract of 600,000 feet of British Columbia timber to the Marinette Lumber Company, of Marinette, Wis.

W. F. Newton, of Grand Forks, B. C., has leased some timber limits, and will cut this winter about 6,000,000 feet of saw logs, which will be brought down to Smelter Lake next spring.

Lumbering operations in the vicinity of Richmond, Que., are dull this winter. Joseph Hedard and A. S. McDonald, of Melbourne, have camps in the woods. Other firms are doing very little.

The Moulthron Lumber Company, of John's Island, Ont., manufactured 17,000,000 feet of white pine lumber and 4,000,000 pickets during the past season. They have on hand about 7,000,000 feet of lumber.

The Cleveland-Sarnia Saw Mills Company, of Sarnia, Ont., have manufactured during the past season 26,500,000 feet of pine lumber and 1,000,000 of hemlock, also 7,500,000 pieces of lath and 5,000,000 shingles. They have on hand about 11,000,000 feet of pine and 250,000 feet of hemlock lumber, 1,800,000 pieces of lath and 2,400,000 shingles. They are taking out 20,000,000 feet of logs for next season's run.

POSITION OF THE BRITISH MARKET.

Now that the Quebec season is really closed and all shipments have reached this country, one is able to form, as far as London is concerned, a pretty accurate observation of the position of the pine market, and we are glad to find, says the Timber Trades Journal, that our prognostications for the past three months are being borne out in so far that stocks are in moderate compass, and those who hold them must feel in a comfortable position, as they have now five to six months in which to work them off, before the new arrivals can reach the market. For the past two weeks there has been a fair demand, and prices rule firm.

The spruce market keeps steady and is likely to do so, in view of the moderate stock here, and seeing that the London general export trade is not taking much, we think it well that the stock is moderate.

We have not heard that any forward business has yet been arranged in either of these woods.

MONTREAL LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

The quantity of lumber shipped from the port of Montreal during the season of 1904 was over 76,000,000 feet less than the previous year. Watson & Todd again head the list with 38,028,601 feet, although this is a large falling off as compared with their 1903 shipments. The statement follows:

	Season, 1904 Ft. B. M.	Season, 1903 Ft. B. M.
Watson & Todd	38,028,601	51,861,668
R. Co. & Co.	29,903,979	23,103,570
Co. Long & Co.	23,016,516	41,841,292
W. & J. Sharples	18,387,500	33,953,535
Dobell, Bessett & Co.	13,490,437	22,103,069
J. Burdall & Co.	8,991,186	12,412,412
McArthur Export Co.	5,067,400	10,289,247
Charlemagne L. Co.	4,667,000	7,478,000
McLaurin Bros.	1,960,000	1,815,000
R. H. Lemay		
Totals	143,250,981	219,756,681

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