

delivery. Car building lumber and bridge timber are strong factors of the demand. In the Boston market oak and ash are said to be advancing.

FOREIGN.

The reports from the British timber markets are not altogether encouraging. In most classes of wood there is an overstock, and a statement for the ten months of the year shows a very heavy import into the United Kingdom. The figures are: Hewn, 2,413,029 loads; sawn, 6,176,519 loads. For the same time in 1896 the figures were 2,118,733 and 5,267,805 loads respectively. The result is a heavy stock of lumber on the docks, for which it is difficult to find buyers. It was thought that, as the close of the import season drew near, the market would again revive but as yet there have been no indications in that direction. Deal prices are still weak, especially spruce, and holders of stock are becoming anxious to realize. At the late auction sales the ruling quotations have been very low, although the goods were by no means of first-class quality. Hardwoods are steady, with the exception of birch, which has been selling at lower prices than at any previous time for many years. It is rumored that some Canadian exporters have suffered heavy losses. The effect of the engineers' strike has seriously effected the birch trade, and the docks are full of that class of timber, which can be purchased at from nine pence to one shilling per cubic foot. We are reliably informed that eighteen inches wide is selling in London at thirteen shillings per cubic foot.

Regarding next season's trade little can be said. Until the engineers' strike is settled, and the timber business regains its position, there will be little buying. A conference of the Employers' Federation and the Mens' Union is shortly to be held, when some agreement will probably be considered and decided upon. In the meantime the country is suffering by the obstruction to trade.

The South American and South African markets are also overstocked with lumber, and the early foreign demand is not likely to be of great volume.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

McLachlin Bros., of Arnprior, sent a gang of men to the woods last week.

J. R. Booth, of Ottawa, has a timber camp on the Black river, getting out square timber.

The recent purchases of the Standard Oil Co. in the vicinity of Ottawa are said to include 8,000,000 feet of box lumber from J. R. Booth.

Mason & Sons' saw mills at Ottawa closed down for the season last week. The cut was the same as last year, about fifteen million feet.

Messrs. A. Wilson and Thomas Argue, of Shawville, have secured a contract from the C.P.R. for the delivery at Britannia of 25,000 ties.

Messrs. Hanna & Hutchison Bros., of Huntsville, Ont., are in the market for 10,000 cedar ties, hewn or sawn, to be delivered on the G.T.R., between Utterson and Novar, or on Vernon, Fairy, Mary or Peninsula lakes.

Mr. John Carew, of Lindsay, Ont., has contracted with Messrs. McCormack & McLeod, of Bracebridge, to supply from 35,000 to 60,000 ties next spring, and Mr. Sam Parkin will furnish 10,000. Mr. Hugh Thompson, for many years the inspector for the Grand Trunk, is making the contracts for the firm, and is now on a driving trip through the north country.

A dispatch from Halifax, N. S., says: A lumber deal has been consummated by which the timber lands of Hill, French & Co., lumber operators at Musquodoboit Harbor, were transferred to a syndicate represented by D. B. Cummings, of Truro, and Fulton Logan, of Stewiacke. The property sold comprise about 25,000 acres of wooded lands, with a milling plant and water power at Musquodoboit Harbor. The price paid was \$50,000.

The following are the prices for sash and doors in Winnipeg:

Doors—Discount, 15 to 20 per cent.	
2 ft 6 in x 6 ft 6 in, 1 1/2	\$1.00
2 8 6 8 1 1/2	2.10
2 8 6 8 1 3/4	1.25
2 10 6 10 1 1/2	3.50
Sash, 2 light—Discount, 25 to 30 per cent.	
14 x 20	\$1.10
14 x 24	1.15
20 x 30	1.90
24 x 26	2.10
Sash, 4 light—Discount, 25 to 30 per cent.	
10 x 20	\$1.25
12 x 24	1.40
14 x 28	2.10
Sash, 8 light—Discount, 25 to 30 per cent.	
8 x 10, 1 1/2 P.R.	1.00
10 x 12, 1 3/4 C.R.	1.20
Sash, 12 light—Discount, 25 to 30 per cent.	
6 x 8, 1 1/2 P.R.	1.00
8 x 10	1.10
10 x 12, 1 3/4 C.R.	1.70

FOREIGN.

Prices on piece stuff at Manistee, Mich., have weakened during the past week. Cedar shingles have sold at \$2.00 on dock there, while pine is quoted at \$2.10.

Alpena mills have for the past five years been supplied with about 30,000,000 feet of Canadian logs. This winter there are only two firms operating on the Georgian Bay, while last year there were four.

A conservative estimate places the log input in the Duluth-Superior district this winter at 200,000,000 feet. In addition to this, there are 15,000,000 feet of logs to be carried over, while about 20,000,000 feet may be put in by small jobbers.

F. R. Chesbrough, of Bay City, Mich., and A. M. Chesbrough, of Toledo, have an option on a tract of pine, including 200,000 feet, situated on the north shore of Lake Superior, in Minnesota. It is probable they will purchase the property.

The white pine trade has been fairly active in New York. C. L. & B. J. Becker state that they have been obliged to refuse some orders for barge loads from Tonawanda, being afraid that they could not get them in before the canal closes for the winter.

At Boston mill culls, box, twelve-inch boards and dimension stuff have improved both in price and demand, but the better grades of lumber are still dull of sale. A large concern is reported to have contracted for next season's cut at the same prices as paid this year.

The Timberman announces that a Chicago firm booked an order last week for 1,400,000 feet of rock elm, white ash and cottonwood. Thick white ash is wanted, and elm is exceedingly scarce and brings good prices. Basswood is improving, and birch is also said to be advancing in popular favor.

There continues to be a brisk demand for all classes of shingles at Buffalo, and dealers can only obtain a portion of the required supplies. At Black Rock the Betts Company are putting in a larger stock of lumber than for many years, chiefly No. 2 cuts and better. The Arthur Hill Company have also a large stock.

On November 15th last there were in stock at Minneapolis, Minn., 404,000,000 feet of pine lumber. At the same time last year the stocks on hand were 299,688,000 feet, and in 1895 357,076,000 feet. These figures show that the stock is considerably larger than for the past two years, but the prospects of sale are much better.

Barn boards and common No. one and two dressing are moving readily at Tonawanda; cutting up stock fair to good, with fine common, selects and uppers, steady. Shipments by canal are being rushed forward as fast as possible, notwithstanding that rates have been advanced from \$1.90 to \$2.10.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co., of Saginaw, Mich., report 50 per cent. more stock moving than at the same time one

year ago, while there has been an increase in the price of common stock of \$1 per thousand. This concern shipped in the first fifteen days of this month 2,500,000 feet, and finds an active demand for mill culls. The report from Bay City is also encouraging. Prices are firm, and manufacturers will carry over much less stock than usual. Michigan operators will put in a full stock of logs this winter, and it is also stated that Canadian operators will put in over 100,000,000 feet to be sold to Michigan mills.

The Boston lumber market does not improve, while the offerings continue liberal. Prices of lumber most in request are as follows: Spruce—Random cargoes, \$12 to \$13; frames by car, ten inches and under, \$13 to \$13.50; 12-in. frames, \$14 to \$14.50; boards, planed on one side, \$11 to \$12.50; extra clapboards, \$50; clear, \$28; laths, 1 1/2 in., \$2 to \$2.10; do., 1 1/2 in., \$1.70 to \$1.80; shingles, \$1.25 to \$1.50. Pine, hemlock, etc.—Eastern pine, \$16 to \$17; extra clapboards, \$35 to \$38; clear, \$30 to \$35; extra cedar shingles, \$2.50 to \$2.70; clear, \$2.25 to \$2.50; second clear, \$1.65 to \$2; hemlock, eastern, \$10 to \$10.50.

The following prices were realized at auction sale of Churchill & Sims, London, Eng., Nov. 10th. Per steamer "Eda," from Maria, Que.—12/14 x 3 x 9 2nd spruce, £7 15s; 12/17 x 3 x 9 2nd spruce, £7 10s; 12/18 x 3 x 8 2nd spruce, £6 15s; 12/17 x 3 x 9 3rd spruce, £7 5s. Per steamer "Milwaukee," from Quebec—9 x 3 x 10 1/4 2nd spruce, £6 15s; 6, 8 x 3 x 9 1/4 2nd spruce, £6; 13 x 3 x 9 unsorted spruce, £7. Per steamer "Parkmore," from Quebec—14/16 x 3 x 12 20, £20 15s; 13 x 3 x 12/22, £21 15s; 12 x 3 x 12/19, £21 10s; 16 x 3 x 11, £20 5s; 13 x 3 x 11, £20 15s; 12 x 3 x 11, £21 5s; 12/16 x 3 x 10, £15 10s; 14/16 x 3 x 9, £16 5s; 12 x 3 x 7, £15. Per steamer "Gangewood," from Quebec—14 x 3 x 9 white spruce, £6 5s.

THE NEW YORK MARKET.

The New York market, taken as a unit, has gained ground, coarse pine, hemlock, Eastern spruce and nearly everything in the shape of dry hardwoods being free sellers at holders' prices, says the Review. The market for white pine box lumber probably takes the lead in percentage of gain. A large quantity of the Canadian pine which found its way there prior to the enactment of the new tariff law has been worked off, until it is no longer an important factor in the market. A prominent holder told the writer a few days ago that the advance in the selling price ranged from fifty cents to one dollar, and he felt sure that the market would surely reach \$14 when navigation opened in the spring. The market is firm today at \$13. A prominent Oswego shipper said he could quickly close orders for every foot he had, at an advance of fifty cents over previous figures, and a large boat load was sold here by a Buffalo shipper several days ago which showed precisely that advance. Careful inquiry shows that the large box makers who possessed means with which to speculate were heavy buyers in the spring months and are still out of the market, while on the other hand, the smaller buyers have worked off their holdings purchased last spring, and are now placing orders with a free hand at the higher prices. When stocks at the large factories are cleaned up, necessitating replenishing, the demand will be strong enough to turn the market over to the seller, where it will probably remain for some time.

The hardwoods are gaining ground steadily, and the market can be summed up in this short sentence: If you have good lumber that is dry, it is no trick to sell it promptly at figures

ranging from fifty cents to two dollars per thousand higher than ruled in the summer months. This is particularly true of oak if thicker than inch, black ash and soft Western elm.

FIRES.

The steam saw and grist mill at Waskawin, N.W.T., owned by Leopold Benz, was burned recently.

Ferdinand Ballavance's saw mill at Sayabec, Que., was last week destroyed by fire. The loss is given as \$3,000.

The saw mill of Pierre Fortin on Kicheleu street, St. Cunegonde, Que., was totally destroyed by fire last week.

The sash and door factory of J. N. Ducharme, situated between Vinet street and Napoleon road, St. Cunegonde, Que., was gutted by fire recently, at a loss of \$25,000. The plant was owned by H. Fauteux.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Ezra C. Shand, maker of doors and sashes, Windsor, Ont., is offering to settle liabilities of \$4,000 at 70 cents on the dollar.

The Lestershire Lumber & Box Co., of Lestershire, Broome County, N.Y., has been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$60,000.

Archibald Alleck's planing mill at Lanark, Ont., has been sold to John W. Stewart for \$4,000. Mr. Stewart will take possession on December 1st.

Charles Heath, assignee, will sell at South River, Ont., on Saturday next, 27th inst., the saw and shingle mill of Samuel McAdam, of South River.

The failure is announced of Henry Sherry, an extensive lumberman of Oshkosh, Wis. Mr. Sherry estimates his liabilities at nearly \$1,000,000, but claims that he expects to pay 100 cents on the dollar. The failure also involves the following companies: Ingersoll Land and Lumber Company, Eland; Mineral Lake Lumber Company, Mineral Lake; Sherry Lumber Company, of Neenah, doing business at Amwa; Sutton Manufacturing Company, Park Falls Paper and Pulp Company, and the Park Falls Lumber Company, the last three doing business at Park Falls.

The ship Loanda will load deals at St. John, N.B., for w.c. England, at 41s 3d.

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