

neglect of their business. The decline in the price of steel is taken as an indication, by some, that lumber prices will decline also. In support of this expectation, wholesalers point to the fact that last year when prices of iron and steel were advancing lumber prices steadily advanced also in sympathy therewith. Against this theory it is contended that lumber is likely to benefit by the increased activity in building operations consequent upon a reduction in prices of iron and steel, which now enter so largely into building construction. The total stocks of lumber in hand throughout the country are said to be below the average. A circular, issued by the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association, calls attention to the fact that about twenty-five of the large mills on the Mississippi river and its tributaries have already closed down on account of the shortage of logs, due to the lowering of the water in the rivers. The circular says: "The lumber cut of the season is already greatly reduced and cannot be made up, even though heavy rains may fall soon. The rivers are falling an inch and more every day. These conditions must be reckoned with sooner or later, and are sure to exert a decided influence on the market. The shortage of logs and lumber precludes the possibility of lower values in 1900."

Prices of hardwood have declined somewhat compared with last winter. The cut is said to be heavier than last year and the supply fully equals the demand. Red cedar shingles have also declined somewhat in the Boston market, while prices of New Brunswick shingles have gone up a little.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Trade has been temporarily at a standstill owing to the holidays and rejoicings consequent upon the success of the British arms in South Africa. The market shows no sign of weakening however, and no change in values is looked for before the termination of the war, when it is not improbable that prices of deals and battens may advance in response to the expected demand from the Cape for material for the building of barracks and many other purposes. There is no present disposition manifested by importers to anticipate such an advance.

Considerable shipments of red pine boards and deals have been made this year by some Canadian manufacturers, and it is becoming more clearly evident that a large and profitable demand is springing up in this market for this class of timber. The demand was heretofore supplied with Swedish goods, but the supply from this quarter, particularly of the larger sizes, is constantly diminishing, while prices have advanced more than 25 per cent. in consequence, and even higher figures are likely to rule before the close of the season. There is therefore an opportunity for Canada to do a profitable trade in this class of timber. The difficulty of securing tonnage and the excessive freight charges is restricting importations to very moderate dimensions. A couple of cargoes of St. John spruce is reported to have been sold at Bristol the other day at £7 15s. c. i. f., which standard it is believed will be maintained under present conditions. According to the brokers' returns the import of spruce at Liverpool for the month of May, was only 1,520 standards, as against 11,588 standards for the same month last year.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Mr. John Kilburn has brought down a drive of 10,000,000 feet of logs from Quebec to St. John.

The rafting of the logs to the St. John, N.B., mills is said to be progressing more satisfactory of late.

Messrs. Toner & Gregory, of Collingwood, are manufacturing 8,000,000 feet of red pine deals for export.

Common pine plank 4, 6 and 8 inches wide, recently sold at Huntsville at \$13, 10 inch at \$14, and 12 inch at \$15.

Some of the best selling hardwood are reported to have dropped \$2 per M. in price during the last three weeks.

Mr. T. G. McMullen, of Ryans Creek, Hants county, Nova Scotia, will finish in about a month a cut of 800,000 feet.

Owners of the mills on the line of the Kingston and Pembroke railroad are said to be obliged, such is the demand, to ship lumber green.

A correspondent writes that he has American orders for large quantities of birch, but the prices asked by the manufacturers on the Georgian Bay are too high to warrant purchasing. He would be willing to pay \$16 for selects and \$11 for lower grades, but \$20 and \$14 are demanded. He estimates that the stock of birch in the Georgian Bay district will reach 16,000,000 feet, and that it will not pass out of the owners' hands unless more moderate prices are accepted.

THE BOSTON MARKET.

We quote the following from the Boston Herald: The spruce lumber market has received a setback in that the combination has put down prices about \$2 per 1,000. This has really alarmed the trade, and resulted in no business. The verdict is that prices ought to have been put down early in April, and then building would have been encouraged. Users of spruce lumber say that to put down prices now that building has been almost entirely stopped by high prices, simply amounts to killing what little trade there is.

The new agreement prices are:

10 and 12 in. dimensions.....	\$17.00
9 in. and under.....	15.00
10 and 12 in. and under.....	16.50
2 x 3, 2 x 4, 2 x 5, 2 x 6, 2 x 7 and 3 x 4.....	13.50
All other random, 9 in. and under.....	14.50
1 3/4 laths.....	3.00
1/2 laths.....	2.85
5 inches and up boards.....	4.00
Bundle furring.....	73.00

Hemlock lumber is nominally easier, although there is still very little offering: Canadian and Eastern boards..... \$15.00 to \$16.00 Pennsylvania..... 19.00 with \$14 for 20s and \$11 for 14s.

Western pine continues very easy:

Uppers, 1 in.....	\$56.00 to \$58.00
2 1/2 to 2 in.....	58.00 " 60.00
3 and 4 in.....	68.00 " 72.00
Selects, 1 to 4 in.....	52.00 " 64.00
Fine common, 1 to 3 in.....	45.00 " 60.00
Sheathings.....	38.00 " 54.00
Barn boards.....	28.00 " 30.00
Coffin board.....	24.00 " 26.00

California redwood is in quiet demand at steady prices:

Strictly heart, 1 in.....	\$48.00 to \$55.00
2 1/2, 1 1/2 and 2 in.....	50.00 to 57.00
3 in.....	55.00 to 60.00
4 in.....	60.00 to 65.00

Clear \$3 less.

Hardwood lumber is in quiet request, with the market easy, although little change in quoted prices:

Whitewood, 1 in.....	\$37.00 to \$39.00
Whitewood, thicker.....	38.00 " 44.00
3/4 inch.....	30.00 " 34.00
Saps, inch.....	28.00 " 30.00
Common.....	25.00 " 28.00
Quartered oak.....	70.00 " 80.00
Fancy Oak.....	90.00 " 100.00
Plain Oak.....	35.00 " 48.00
Ach.....	38.00 " 50.00
Cherry.....	90.00 " 130.00
Maple.....	30.00 " 40.00
Sycamore, quartered inch.....	40.00 " 50.00
Walnut.....	100.00 " 130.00

Shingles are easy, with a very full supply:

Extra.....	\$3.00 to \$3.10
Clear.....	2.60 " 2.70
2nd clear.....	2.00 " 2.50
Clear white.....	1.75 " 2.00
Extra No. 1.....	1.50 " 1.75

Oregon, \$2.50 to \$3.50, as to grade and quality.

These prices are for Boston, freight paid. California redwood is quoted at \$3.40 to \$3.50.

Clapboards continue very dull:

Spruce, extra.....	\$28.00 to \$29.00
Spruce, clear.....	26.00 " 27.00
Spruce, 2nd clear.....	23.00 " 24.00
Pine, extra.....	38.00 " 40.00
Pine, clear.....	35.00 " 40.00
Pine, 2nd clear.....	30.00 " 32.00
California redwood, clear.....	42.50 " 45.00
Second grade.....	42.00 " 44.00

Laths are easy: 1 1/4 inch, \$3; 1 1/2 inch, \$2.85.

BARBADOES MARKET.

Messrs. Musson, Son & Co. report: There has been one arrival of spruce, the cargo reported by us as sold at \$22 to arrive. In white pine there has been no arrivals, and nothing further reported since the cargo contracted for at \$24.50 shipping, \$20 seconds. In pitch pine no further transactions; there is a cargo on the way to our consignment. There is nothing new to report in shingles, shocks or woodhoops.

Messrs. Clairemont, Mann & Co. report: Both white pine and spruce are in great demand, as our yards are very bare of both kinds, particularly spruce, for which there is always a good demand during our reaping season. There has been one arrival with spruce, sold to arrive at \$22 round. We also note the sale to arrive, of a cargo of white pine, at \$24.50 round for first quality, and \$20 for second quality. No arrival with pitch pine for some time, and it is now very much wanted.

Shingles—Gaspe cedar, in supply, and market dull—there is a large lot in store unsold, principally small, for which \$3.75 per M is asked, but less would be accepted to make a sale. No late arrivals of laying shingles. June 5th: Schr. "P. A. Rice," from Church Point, N.S., with 145 M feet spruce—Sold to arrive at \$22 round.

SHIPPING MATTERS.

Shipments of lumber, lath, shingles and telegraph poles are heavy at present from Deseronto, Ont.

Barkentine Antilla, which sailed from Bantry the other day, goes to Yarmouth to take in lumber for Buenos Ayres at \$11, or if Rosario \$12.

The steamer Bridgewater is discharging a large quantity of pulp at Central wharf, Halifax, for shipment by the steamer Shelldrake, which will be due from Brennan next week.

The British barque Lakemba of Glasgow and the American barque Sonoma are loading a cargo of lumber at the Hastings mill, Vancouver. The former is receiving a general overhauling and is being repainted.

LUMBER FREIGHT RATES.

CANADA ATLANTIC RAILWAY.

Lumber freight rates on the Canada Atlantic Railway are as follows: Ottawa to Oswego, \$1.90 per M ft.; Ottawa to Syracuse, 9/2 cents per 100 lbs; Ottawa, Rockland and Hawkesbury to Montreal, for export only \$1.10 per M ft., domestic 1/2 cents per 100 lbs.; Quebec, \$2.10 per M ft., domestic 3/2 cents per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to Montreal, for export only \$1.60 per M ft., domestic 6/2 cents per 100 lbs.; Quebec, export \$2.60 per M ft., domestic 10/2 cents per 100 lbs.; Pembroke to Montreal, for export only \$1.85 per M ft., domestic 7/2 cents per 100 lbs.; Quebec for export only 2.85 per M ft., domestic 11/2 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to New York, all rail, 15 cents per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to New York, 17 cents per 100 lbs.; Pembroke to New York, 18 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa, Rockland and Hawkesbury to New York and points within regular lighterage limits of New York Harbor, seasoned pine lumber, lots of 50 M feet and up, via Williams Barge line from Albany, \$3.25 per M feet, lath 65 cents per M pieces, lots 250 M pieces and over; from Arnprior,

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seasoned pine lumber \$3.75 per M feet, lath 7 cents per M pieces; from Douglas, Eganville and Pembroke, seasoned pine lumber \$4.50 per M feet, lath 80 cents per M pieces, Ottawa to Buffalo, 12 cts. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Port Huron and Detroit, 14c. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa, Rockland and Hawkesbury to Boston and common points, local 15c., exports 13c. per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to Boston and common points, local 17 cents, export 15 cts. per 100 lbs., Parry Sound to Boston and Portland and common points, local 21 1/2 cents, export 20 cts. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa, Rockland and Hawkesbury to Portland, &c., 15 cts.; Arnprior to Portland, 17 cts.; Ottawa to Burlington, 6c. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Albany, 10 cts. per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to Albany, 12 cts. per 100 lbs.; Parry Sound to Albany, 17 cts. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Scranton and Wilkesbarre, Pa., also Binghamton, N.Y., 13 cents per 100 lbs, from Arnprior 15 cents, from Parry Sound 20 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to St. John, N.B., and common points, 20 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Halifax, N.S., and common points, 21 cents per 100 lbs. Minimum carload weight for shipment of lumber, lath, shingles, etc., is 30,000 lbs. Rates quoted above are in cents per 100 lbs., when quoted per M ft., minimum carload will be 10 M ft., lumber not exceeding 3,000 lbs. per M ft. Lath minimum carload 50 M pieces, not exceeding 600 lbs. per M pieces. Ottawa rates apply on shipments from Rockland and Hawkesbury.

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