

is limited. Manufacturers still insist on full prices for hardwoods. The expected smaller import of logs this winter is already exerting an influence upon values, and dealers and consumers who have delayed in purchasing stock for their winter requirements cannot yet feel assured that they will be given any concessions. While the supply of basswood is greater than during the summer months, it is held in strong hands and can only be obtained by paying the prices asked by manufacturers.

#### QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Prices of spruce lumber generally are unchanged, although special sizes are a little firmer. There continues to be an active demand for stock for shipment to the Eastern States, while some manufacturers are making considerable shipments to Ontario points. Offerings of clapboards, and particularly of the narrow widths, are larger than one month ago. Extras are quoted at \$43 to \$44; clears, \$40 to \$42; second clears, \$38; and extra No. 1, \$28. Few sales of New Brunswick shingles are being made above \$3.40 for extras on Boston freight rate, while there is a large supply of low grade shingles and prices thereof are inclined towards weakness. There is a scarcity of spruce shingles, which are firmer.

#### UNITED STATES.

Dealers in the United States hesitate to put in large stocks of lumber. Current requirements represent a fair trade, but as a general rule there is little buying for the future. That prices remain steady in the face of industrial depression is one of the most encouraging signs. Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers, in contradistinction to dealers at most other points, report a very satisfactory volume of business. All low grade pine, including norway, is very strong and an advance is predicted before spring. In the Lake Superior district there is a surplus of low grade shop lumber and No. 2 boards, but box grades are about sold out and norway dimension is in light supply. In Chicago it is reported that trade is about what it should be at this season of the year, and it is believed that prices are not likely to yield to any extent during the winter months. Eastern spruce is scarce and strong. The mills are running full time, but are unable to supply the demand for random and certain other grades. There is not a heavy movement of shingles nor lath, and prices of both these commodities are inclined towards weakness. Cedar shingles are quoted at \$2 to \$2.40 in the Saginaw valley.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

The feeling in British timber circles is somewhat better than at last writing. The stock of unsold lumber is less than one year ago, which clearly indicates that the

consumption has been larger than was generally supposed, as there has been no great falling off in imports. The quantity of deals, battens and boards in the Surrey Commercial Docks at London is nearly 3,000,000 pieces less than at the corresponding time last year. The effect of this shortage is partially offset by the present inactive demand, but if there should be even an average consumption during the winter months, there should be little difficulty in keeping prices near their present basis. In both London and Liverpool pine and spruce remain firm in price, with a prospect of higher values obtaining for next year's import. There is a better demand for first and second quality pine deals than for thirds and fourths. In spruce deals the most urgent demand is for eleven inch. Holders of Canadian lumber are being urged not to sacrifice their stock, as there promises to be a shortage before next year's shipments shall reach British ports. Very few transactions for next year's supply are as yet reported, but it is stated that a few have taken place at figures quite as high as those which ruled last spring. In square timber the consumption is quite in excess of that of the fall of 1902. Stocks are light and shippers are asking exceptionally high prices for 1904 delivery. A large quantity of Quebec oak was sold at a recent auction sale in London at from 70s. to 110s. per load of 50 cubic feet.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

The Dickson Company, of Peterborough, Ont., are again operating this winter on the old Scott limits.

The ship Lancing is expected to reach St. John this week to load deals for Melbourne, Australia.

The steamer Manchester City has taken on a quantity of deals and pulp wood at Quebec for the United Kingdom.

The Bonny River Lumber Company have three portable mills operating on their timber limits near Bonny River, N.B.

The Scott Lumber Co., of Fredericton, N.B., expect to take out about 18,000,000 feet of spruce and hemlock timber this winter.

Fownes & White, of St. Martins, N.B., have set up a portable mill on the property of the O'Neill Lumber Company, which they will operate during the winter months.

The Crown Lands Department at Fredericton, N.B., will offer for sale on Wednesday, 25th inst., 3½ square miles of timber limits on the north fork of Coal Branch, Kent county, for which C. C. Stiles is the applicant.

A. Leitch, a large lumber manufacturer of Cranbrook, B.C., states that he is now employing in the neighborhood of 500 men in his operations in the East Kootenay district. The demand for British Columbia

lumber in the North-West, he says, is steadily growing.

Great interest centres in the slack cooerage situation, and the prediction of jobbers that the demoralization in prices would last the year through promises to be more correct. It is almost impossible to quote prices on slack stock.

Wilson & Dorfman have opened two logging camps at French Creek and Courtney, B.C., and about 70 men are now engaged in getting out timber. It is proposed to establish a portable mill near Departure Bay.

Murchie & Sons and Frank Todd, of St. Stephen, N. B., and George McKean and N. H. Murchie, of St. John, N. B., have entered into a partnership to operate during the coming winter on the Hale & Murchie timber limits on the head waters of the Tobique river. They will cut about 6,000,000 feet of logs.

The Department of Indian Affairs at Ottawa are asking for tenders up to Friday, 20th inst., for 500,000 feet of standing spruce timber over 9 inches in diameter at the stump on the Crane River Indian Reserve, on the north-west side of Lake Manitoba. The timber must be cut subject to Crown dues at the rate of 80 cents per thousand feet b. m. Further information may be obtained from S. R. Marlatt, Inspector of Indian Agencies, Portage la Prairie, Man.

It is estimated that 20,000,000 feet of lumber were cut by the mills at Owen Sound, Ont., during the past season, made up as follows: John Harrison & Sons Co., 6,500,000 feet; Maitland, Rixon & Co., 5,000,000 feet; Keenan Bros., 3,000,000 feet; J. S. Findlay, 1,500,000 feet; William Pedwell, 1,000,000 feet, and the balance by the North American Bent Chair Co. Besides the lumber cut at their mills, Keenan Bros. handled over their dock 2,500,000 feet, and John Harrison & Sons about 750,000 feet.

#### TIMBER LIMIT TRANSACTIONS.

The Rat Portage Lumber Company have purchased 1,000 acres of fir timber on the Schelt Peninsula in British Columbia and have established logging camps there.

D. A. Huntley has sold a one-half interest in his timber property at Parrsboro, N. S., to H. W. McKenna and operations will be carried on jointly by them.

The Amherst Lumbering Company, of Amherst, N. S., has been organized and has acquired the valuable timber property of Amos Lawrence & Sons at Southampton, containing about 3,000 acres adjacent to the Springhill and Parrsboro Railway. The company purpose operating two mills for the winter and expect to cut about 3,000,000 feet of lumber.

#### BUSINESS NOTES.

The Menford Manufacturing Company, of Menford, Ont., have their new factory in partial operation. It is a three-story building 200 x 75 feet. They are turning out a large quantity of furniture, including tables, sideboards, bedroom suites and desks.

The Cedar Valley Lumber Company, operating in the Kootenay lumber district of British Columbia, are said to have placed their assets in the hands of an assignee. The Carbon Creek Lumber Company, of East Kootenay, B.C., is also reported to be in the hands of liquidators.

The Seaman-Kent Manufacturing Company expect to have their new plant at Menford, Ont., fully completed at an early date. Their factory is 180 x 255 feet and is equipped with one of the largest single dry kilns in Canada. The company are at present manufacturing hardwood flooring, store fittings, interior finish, door and window cashes, screer frames, tripods and photo finishing frames.

A meeting of the creditors of James Harrison, lumber merchant, Burlington, Ont., was held last week. Mr. Harrison asked for an extension of from six to nine months. He figured that his liabilities totalled up to \$13,028, and his assets \$16,275, and thought that if given time he could pay 100 cents on the dollar. The assignee estimated the assets at \$1,000 less than did Mr. Harrison. The creditors appointed James Cushman, Cameron Bartlett and C. A. Birge as inspectors, and empowered them to grant the extension asked for if they considered it advisable to do so; if not, they may wind up the estate at once.

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