

place of being housed in the woods, and it cannot be long now before the buzz of the saw mill resounds throughout the land. With spring will also come the extension of building operations which have been at a standstill for some time. The prospects in this particular, in the leading cities of the States, are encouraging. Reports, that come to us through correspondence, and lumbermen from this side of the line who have visited the country across the border, tell of a hopeful outlook in this respect. With a large amount of social discontent in the republic, there is unfortunately, at this season of the year, the least likely sensible time to hint at such a thing, rumors of possible strikes. We hear something of these already, but it can only be hoped that wise counsels and plain commonsense will be allowed to prevail; and at a time when workmen need work so much, and capitalists are desirous of making use of their capital, that the wheels of machinery and commerce will be allowed to operate without any block. In the white pine districts, it is to be noted that orders are reaching manufacturers less eagerly this season than has been the case at corresponding periods in other years. Buyers are holding back, and not placing their orders as early as has sometimes been the case. We do not know that this is indicative of any widespread depression, but is rather an exercise of that caution which has grown upon business men everywhere, because of the continued dullness of business and the relapses in trade that have taken place frequently of late years. Once satisfied that there is business to do, and orders will follow as a natural consequence. What is needed more than anything else to settle business in lumber, as well as in all other lines of trade, is a settled money policy in the United States. Legislators who have this matter so largely in their own hands ought to recognize this fact. Commerce is an article that cannot be fooled with, as one may fool with politics.

FOREIGN.

Severe weather has not been confined to this continent. Great Britain has, relatively, had a stronger taste of the elements than we in this western country, and these have proven a drawback to the lumber business there as here. A result of heavy storms was to make trade during the first two months of the year exceedingly quiet. What the near future is going to show one can hardly say. Stocks are heavier than the trade would desire, and there is a want of firmness in prices. With a revival in building and manufacturing lines the depression would be materially lessened, and these are things that are earnestly hoped for. Better word comes from Australia, and it looks as though the long and severe season of commercial depression that has afflicted that country was passing away, and in any change of the kind lumber business will be strengthened. This is the advice that is reaching us at this time. Business in South America is in only a fairly healthy condition. Nothing better can be said.

HARDWOODS.

Any reasonable improvement in many lines of industry, where wood goes into consumption in the manufacture, will have a good influence on hardwoods. In carriage building, wagon making, stave manufacture, furniture trades, car building,

and other industries, fresh life is expected on the opening of spring, and as we enter March, there are evidences already showing themselves that business will shortly improve in these lines of manufacture. With this the case enquiries for hardwood are becoming somewhat more numerous. Mill men will enter with energy into the cutting of ash, elm, birch and maple, with very little delay, there being a good call for this class of lumber. It cannot be said that any advance is taking place in prices of hardwoods, nor is it to be recorded that prices are dropping. They are quiet firm.

SHINGLES.

If there is anything like decent activity in building circles the shingle trade will feel the benefit, and this will come as a pleasant reaction after a very dull winter. We must be frank in saying that shingles are not looking up, so far as the present is concerned, but better things are to be expected. Washington Territory shingle men are eager to combat the statements that have been current, that manufacturers there have been selling shingles at ridiculously low prices. It is admitted that some purchases of poor grades were made at a sacrifice price, but the regular shingle trade, it is claimed, is in a better condition just now than has been the case for some time. Prices are firm and orders are coming in fairly well. It is estimated that about one half of the shingle mills of that territory are now running.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

The portable mill at English Settlement, Kings Co., N. B., has cut over 500,000 feet of lumber for Lynch & Sons.

The Royal City Mills, of New Westminster, B. C., shipped five car loads of lumber the past week to Minnesota.

Among the week's shipments from St. John, N. B., are 1,250,000 ft. of lumber for the United States, and 134,000 pine boards for Cuba.

Lumbermen of Westmoreland Co., N. B., report only a two-third cut as compared with this date last year, on account of deep snow in the woods.

The proposition of Messrs. Pate and Gunton, of Chicago, to invest in Rat Portage lumber, has fallen through, the distance and freight rates being against them.

James Scott, Irondale, Ont.: Basswood and pine shingles are in fair demand. Very little first-class stock is held at this point. Prices are advancing slowly. Little new stock is being taken out this year.

Messrs. Davidson & Hay have sold 5,000,000 ft. of their Cache Bay stock to eastern states parties at a price which Mr. Davidson says is satisfactory to the firm. They have still a considerable stock on hand, and as yet no contracts have been made for the new cut.

The sale by the Muskoka Mill & Lumber Co. of berths Nos. 136 and 137, embracing 72 square miles, on the North Shore is one of the most important lumber transactions of the new year. The purchasers are Hale & Booth, of Pembroke. The price paid has not been given out by either parties to the sale, but is believed to be in the neighborhood of \$350,000. The new owners intend to operate the limits, which so far have been untouched,

and possess a fine quality of timber, and expect to take out next winter not less than 30,000,000 ft. of logs.

Mr. Otis Sheppard, of the Sheppard-Morse Lumber Company, of Ottawa and Boston, speaking of trade, said: "Business is very dull; duller than I've seen it for a long time. As an instance, in 1873, freight to South America was as high as \$25 a thousand; to day it is \$5 per thousand in large vessels, and \$6 to \$6.50 in smaller ones. This is something unprecedented. Well, even at that figure, South American firms won't buy lumber. We have been cabling out considerably, urging them to take it, but they won't touch it. Canadian prices have held up better on account of the English call for Canadian lumber. Lumber from the south—yellow pine—is selling lower than for a great while, and is largely glutting the American market; we have gone into it ourselves considerably."

UNITED STATES.

Birch is reported in good demand in Buffalo.

Prices for birch and oak at Grand Rapids, Mich., have advanced \$1.

A Bay City report says Canadian logs are bringing \$8 to \$11, and the demand is fair.

Hitchcock & Bialy, of Bay City, Mich., are shipping 400,000 feet of lumber to Buffalo by rail.

Soft elm will be in good demand the coming season at Manistee, Mich., as stocks are low.

About 20,000,000 feet of lumber held at Alpena, Mich., has been sold since January, representing about one half of the stock carried over at that point.

A conservative estimate places the total stock of lumber on hand on the mill docks and yards on the Saginaw river, at 500,000,000 feet, and possibly slightly in excess of this figure. This is equivalent to a full season's output of the mills.

Late Michigan transactions are as follows: Geo. D. Jackson, of Bay City, sales aggregating nearly 3,000,000 ft. for early water shipment; S. O. Fisher, West Bay City, nearly 2,000,000 ft. for water shipment; C. C. Barker, Bay City, 2,000,000 ft.; A. T. Bliss, Saginaw, 2,000,000 ft.

QUEBEC CROWN TIMBER LIMITS.

ABOUT \$12,000 REALIZED FOR 850 SQUARE MILES.

The auction sale of Crown timber limits in Quebec on Wednesday last is on the whole considered fairly satisfactory, though the bidding was a little slow, and confined to a few hands. The sale was presided over by the Crown Lands Commissioner, Hon. E. J. Flynn. All the lots advertised were, with one exception, disposed of, and the purchasers and prices were as follows:

The five principal berths on the Bonaventure West agency, comprising respectively 19, 22½, 24½, 25½, and 8 square miles in the Escuminac, were offered at an upset price of \$17 per mile and run up in the case of three of the limits to \$25, 25, \$21.25 and \$32.25 respectively, between Messrs. A. W. Stevenson and J. C. Langelier, and were finally knocked down to the latter at those prices. The other berths of 12, 2 and 10 square miles in the same agency were awarded without competition to Messrs. Blaquiere, Ryan and Dickey at the upset price of \$8 per mile.

The 10 mile limit offered in Fortin Gaspé East agency, was offered at an upset price of \$8, instead of \$12 as advertised, and awarded to Mr. Robertson without competition. The same remark applies to the three mile limit offered in Fox, in the Gaspé Centre agency, which was sold to Mr. J. Jalbert at \$4 per square mile.

All the berths in the Lake St. John East agency, comprising a total of 450 miles, together with 78 square miles, covering all the berths offered in the Saguenay agency and 11½ square miles on the River aux Ecores, in the Lake St. John Centre agency, were sold to Price Bros. & Co., at upset prices of \$9, \$10 and \$6 without competition.

In the case of the two berths of 24 and 26 square miles respectively, in the Lake St. John

West agency the advertised upset price of \$21 was reduced to \$15 and the two limits were awarded to Mr. Chateauvert, M. P. P., for I. B. Renaud & Co., at the latter price.

Forty miles at Taseherau, in the Gaspé West agency, were sold to Fr. Roy at \$2, and 3½ miles in the Montmorency to Flavien Chouinard at \$4.

Six miles at Messey, in the Lake St. John Centre agency, went to Alb. Tremblay at \$5.

The most spirited competition of the whole sale, occurred over the 24 mile limit on the River Battiscan, in the St. Maurice agency, between Messrs. Wm. Power, of Quebec, and A. W. Stevenson, of Montreal, the upset price of \$16 being run up to \$39, at which figure it was finally adjudged to Mr. Stevenson.

The total area sold was about 850 square miles, chiefly of spruce and cedar and the total amount realized appeared to be about \$10,000 to \$12,000.

COOPERAGE STOCKS.

Sutherland, Innes & Co., Chatham, Ont., say that for this season of the year, business in barrel stock has been very good. Orders have been placed for large quantities of stock for delivery after the opening of navigation at different points in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Dakota, but just at present shipments are light. The market for No. 1 30-in. staves will be barer than it has been for almost a year. Dry flour barrel stock is in good demand. While the demand for No. 2 staves has been fairly good, prices are still very low, and there is not likely to be much until the truck season begins, when a decided improvement is looked for. The stocks of No. 2, 30-in. staves are large, while the supply of other sizes is rather below the normal points for this time of the year. Heading shows only a slight improvement. On the whole it was thought that manufacturers need not look forward with any misgivings to business this year.

AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS.

Fraser & Co., Ltd., Melbourne, Australia, say: Business in timber may, taken on the whole, be generally regarded as satisfactory, though the heavy purchases made during the previous two or three months have prevented any important clearance being effected, and sales have mainly been concluded to meet demands for previous contracts requiring certain sizes and classes of timber which were not, for the time being, in the stocks held by sawmills in the town and country districts. It is, however, a good sign to observe indications of improved operations in the building, mining and other industries of this colony where timber is greatly utilized, and, should it continue we look for business in timber during the year 1895 to show some considerable increase on 1894, and, at least, be able to record a less irregular demand for all classes of importations that we have had to report from time to time within the period mentioned.

All descriptions of Baltic woods, Oregon, general American lumber, Canadian spruce and New Zealand timber have been in more or less demand, and upon the opening of business in the new year we anticipate some good sales will be concluded at existing rates. Such further fixtures have been arranged from some of the ports of export, but are not of sufficient importance to influence any material change in the condition of this market in the near future.

From figures below, giving importations of the leading classes of timber for 1894 as compared with 1893, it will be seen that these show a slight increase in every line, the principal being in Oregon:

	1893	1894
Flooring, lining and weather-boards.....	13,368,894	14,600,000
Red deals.....	745,914	800,000
Spruce deals.....	1,482,000	1,600,000
Oregon pine.....	1,170,760	1,200,000

A steady demand has been experienced for supplies of new lumber at prices lately ruling, viz.—£5 5s. to £5 10s. and from £6 to £6 10s. for square sizes. Further sales are pending.

Small lines of red wood have been quoted at about £5 15s. per 1000 feet super.

Some small clearances of sugar pine and door stock have been effected at £10 per 1000 feet super. There are no holdings of the latter in first hand. We anticipate enquiries will shortly be made for these lines, and therefore any forward supplies should meet with good demand.