

was 304,000,000 feet. This is the smallest output on the river since 1866, when it amounted to 309,000,000 feet. There were rafted to Michigan from the Georgian Bay district 238,843,624 feet, nearly all of which went to the Saginaw river.

C. Desmarais, of Hull, has secured from the Bell Telephone Company a contract to furnish 2,000 cedar poles.

The Bradley Myles Lumber Company, of Hamilton, Ont., have received an order to supply the British Admiralty with 100 car-loads of oak dimension timber, for use in the ironclads. The stock will be delivered at Liverpool early in the spring.

The Rat Portage Lumber Company have purchased the stock of lumber of the estate of Graham Horne & Company, of Fort William. This company have arranged with Graham, Horne & Co. to carry on the business in Fort William, which will be conducted under the same management as it has been for the past twenty-one years.

Henry Hibson, of the firm of Hibson, Briggs & Cooper, lumber merchants, Saginaw, Mich., is making a tour of the Ottawa valley for the purpose of buying a quantity of lumber. He states that Canadian white ash and basswood are in great demand by the lumber dealers of Michigan, chiefly for making furniture and inside finishing.

Seven timber berths were sold at the Crown Lands' office, Fredericton, N. B., last week, as follows: 3 1/2 square mile block on White's brook, Restigouche county, to Wm. Currie, at \$151 per mile; 2 1/2 mile berth on Nash's creek, Restigouche, to Nathaniel McNair, at \$18 per mile; 5/8 mile brook on Nictor lake, to T. B. Winslow, at \$1.10 per mile; two 9 mile and one 4 1/2 mile berth on White's creek, Restigouche, to Wm. Richards, at upset price; 2 mile berth on Ten Mile creek, St. John county, to J. E. Moore, at upset price.

Alliston Cushing, of St. John, N.B., returned recently from California, where he has been interested in quartz mines. It will be remembered that Mr. Cushing had the contract last year to furnish 8,000,000 feet of logs to Jerneagan & Fisher for the Electrolytic Marine Salts Company, at North Lubec. He had landed more than half of that quantity when the bubble broke, leaving him in a fair way to lose about \$20,000 by the transaction. He, however, purchased all the logs and lumber in the plant No. 2, then partly constructed, and now has a sawmill at work converting the logs into lumber.

In Northwestern Ontario the winter has been very favorable for bush work, and a good deal of work is going on. The North Shore Timber Company, of which Jas. Whalen is manager, is getting out about 25,000 cords of pulp wood at Nepigon. Vigers & Co. are taking out a good stock of logs for their Port Arthur mill; Alger, Smith & Co., who are operating extensively on limits 2 and 3, Pigeon river, are through their cutting, and hauling is progressing satisfactorily; while a large quantity of timber and ties is being taken out along the line of the new Ontario & Rainy River railway for use in the construction of that road. Graham, Horne & Co. are also getting out a large quantity of cedar culvert timber for the C.P.R. Work is plenty, and demand and wages for men are both good.

OUTLOOK FOR CANADIAN TIMBER.

Reviewing the lumber market, the Timber Trades Journal, of London, Eng., says:—The quantity of timber and deals which continues to be taken into consumption is somewhat surprising, considering that we are supposed to be in the middle of the most inclement month of the year. Last January similar weather conditions prevailed, and the deliveries of the first two weeks of the respective years very nearly tally, with a slight advantage to the present one, but only in goods taken from ship's side. In nearly all the districts which receive their supplies from the docks and yards of the metropolitan building operations are on the same extended scale that has marked the course of the previous year. It is something new to find spruce prices improving coincident with a declining market for Baltic whitewood.

The shippers are lamenting over the difficulty of getting the prices of Swedish and other north of Europe productions back to their former high standpoint, but they have no sympathisers on this side. The forests of Canada can supply all that our markets here require, and colonial shippers have only to adjust the lengths of the spruce cut to suit the demand to take a much larger share of the white-wood trade from their north of Europe competitors. The major portions of the arguments used in favor of the merits of Baltic white, are founded on old-fashioned prejudices, and it is plain from the stiffening of spruce prices that those who substituted spruce last year, on account of its cheapness, are ready to try the experiment again. Spruce is a most durable wood under many conditions, and now that it is being shipped in batten dimensions, if supplied in 6 to 26 feet lengths, would answer all the purposes of trade.

We have alluded before to the Canadian red pine, of which there is plenty to be had in the forests abroad. This is another building wood that seems to be unappreciated amongst the trade here, but only requires some alteration in the specification to bring it more under notice. 4, 3, 9 and 11 inch widths in good sound wood are scarce here, and likely to remain so, the tendency of the Baltic trade being toward the smaller dimensions.

The pine market is quiet, and the business done is not satisfactory as far as prices go. In wholesale lines the top price for best bright seasoned regulars is £26, but we hear that the Quebec firms are expecting to get an advance on last year's figures for the winter cut leading stocks. There does not appear to be nearly as much life now in this particular branch of the wood trade as formerly existed—at least in the London market. The enormous quantity of imported ready-made stuff, in the shape of doors and mouldings, in addition to the extension of the planed deals from the Swedish mills, may have had some exercising influence on the consumption of Canadian pine. At any rate, the prices now obtainable here, considering the high free-board cost and freight, are not sufficiently remunerative to encourage large importations in the legitimate way, and we fear all but the primest kinds of their class will be sent to market for shipper's account.

THE BARBADOS MARKET.

Of the Barbados lumber market Messrs. Claremonte, Man & Co., in their report, say:—Since last advices, we note ten arrivals with white pine and spruce, and dealers are fairly well supplied. Last sales were—white pine, \$21.26 for first, and \$15.26 for second quality; spruce, \$16.75 for first and \$11.75 for second quality. Pitch pine—we note the arrival of four ordered cargoes for dealers' account, contracted for at \$23 and \$24. The demand for Caspe cedar shingles continues good, last sales at \$5.06 to \$5.41. Last sales of spruce laying, \$2.35; cedar laying, \$2.76 1/2; cypress \$8.50 and \$6.50 for 6-inch, 'hearts' and 'saps' ex Cora. Arrivals. Brig Boston Marine, from Tusket Wedge, 31 M feet white pine boards, \$22.07; 10 M do plank \$20.07; 41 M feet small boards \$19.37; 11 M second quality do. \$15.00; 6 M small second quality do. \$14.07; 6 M feet spruce boards \$17.60; 6 M small do. \$13; 7 M scantling \$19.07. Schr. Juanita, from Liverpool, N.S., 66 M ft. white pine boards \$21.06; 6 M planed do \$20.01; 14 M second quality do. \$15.01; 44 M second quality spruce \$12.01. Brig. Resultado, from Liverpool, N. S., 60 M white pine \$21.06; 5 M second quality do. \$15.07; 95 M feet spruce \$17.07; 13 M feet hemlock scantling \$12; 47 M spruce laying shingles \$2.48. Schr. Svanara, from St. John, N. B., with 40 feet white pine \$21.26; 32 M second quality do. \$15.26; 75 M small do. \$13.40; 3 M spruce \$17.00; 20 M second quality do. \$11.40; 10 M do. plank and scantling \$15.00; 500 M shingles on dealers' account. Schr. B. B. Hardwick, from Clemont's port, N. S., with 11 M feet white pine \$21.26; 13 M second quality do. \$15.26; 137 M spruce \$16.60; 3 M second quality do. \$11.60; 2 M do scantling \$15.00. Schr. F. A. Rice, from Weymouth, N.S., with 49 M feet white pine \$21.36; 18 M second quality do. \$15.26; 71 M feet spruce \$16.75 for first and \$11.75 for second quality. Schr. Wapiti, from Yarmouth, 18 M feet spruce, 264 M shingles; shingles sold at \$2.35. Schr. John A. McKie, from Windsor, N. S., 153 M feet white pine, 80 M second quality. Schr. Moss Glen, from Bridgewater, N. S., 73 M feet white pine, 41 M second quality, 17 M feet spruce scantling. Schr. A. S. Snare, from St. John, N. B., 97 M feet white pine, 54 M second quality.

Lee & Lentz have engaged in the lumber business at Tonawanda, N. Y.

WHITE PINE STOCKS.

Statistics were published in a recent issue of the American Lumberman showing the production of lumber in 1898 and the stock on hand at the close of the year. Commenting thereon, this journal says:

While the product of the year was 78,000,000 feet less than that of the previous year, the stock on hand at the close of the season showed a much greater decrease than this, for the total stock reported from all the white pine and hemlock mills in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, along the Mississippi river and on Lake Erie, was but 3,494,739,000 feet, against 3,815,558,000 feet at the close of 1897; a decrease of 321,000,000 feet. Thus the stock on hand has been decreasing in a much more rapid ratio than the product, testifying to the substantial character of the year's business and its improvement over 1897, good as the latter part of that year was.

But the figures on mill stocks do not tell the whole story. The stock on hand at wholesale points must be taken into consideration and in regard to that branch of the subject complete statistics are lacking. From some of the markets there are available and reliable reports. At Chicago there was quite a heavy decrease in stock considering the volume carried—a little less than 10 per cent. Most other markets of importance show similar figures with a decrease in some of them even greater than in Chicago. But the wholesale markets alone are not sufficient to gain an accurate view of the general situation. The stocks on hand in retail yards and in the hands of heavy consumers must be considered.

The general impression is that stocks in the hands of retailers are lighter than ordinarily at this season. While there was some retailers who last fall bought quite heavily, particularly early in the fall, or in the late summer before the September advance in prices, most of the stock was pretty well exhausted by the end of the year and it is believed that the amount available for the winter's trade is light.

DUTY ON SPRUCE LUMBER.

A cablegram has been received by the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa from Commercial Agent Rennie, at Buenos Ayres, stating that on representations of the Dominion Government the duty upon spruce lumber had been reduced by the Government of Argentina by \$2.40 per thousand. Large quantities of spruce lumber are annually shipped from Canada to the Argentine Republic, the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia being the principal exporters. In September last the duty was increased by 10 per cent., but as a result of Mr. Rennie's good work the duty is now less than it was six months ago.

BUSINESS NOTES.

The Burrill Lumber Company, of Forestdale, Que., has obtained a charter of incorporation. The Sheppard Lumber Company, of Orillia, Ont., has been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$85,000. The Johnston-Ford Lumber Company, of Abmic Harbor, Ont., is reported to have assigned to J. C. Ford.

SHIPPING MATTERS.

The schooner Arthur N. Gilson has been chartered to load lumber at Apalachicola for Halifax at \$7.00. Chartering is somewhat quiet, and a weakness in the market has developed. Two vessels have been chartered for first open water from Montreal to London, at 43c 9d. From the St. John district tonnage is offering at 43s. 9d., but charterers are diffident in offering more than 42s 6d.

The planing mill of Matthew's Bros. & Company, on Dundas street, Toronto, was destroyed by fire on Thursday last. Some lumber was also burned.

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