

some mill cuts at slightly advanced prices as compared with the figures of one year ago. Square and waney timber is also very firm, and while the prices for last season's production remain unchanged, contracts are believed to have been made for next season's production at higher figures. Birch timber is now quoted in the Quebec market at 17 cents to 18 cents for 14-inch average, 22 to 23 cents for 16-inch, 26 to 27 cents for 17-inch, and 30 cents for 18-inch.

The deal shipments from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to Great Britain are practically over for the season. Some of the ports in both provinces show a falling off as compared with the shipments of the previous year, but this decrease will be more than made up by the larger shipments to South America and the West Indies, which markets have been unusually active this season. Work in the woods has progressed very favorably, and unless prevented by weather conditions, a large cut of logs will be made in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia this winter.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Manufacturers and retailers throughout Manitoba and the Territories report a very satisfactory trade for this season of the year. While the cut of the mills has been heavy, stocks in the yards are considerably below the average. Already preparations are being made for an active building season next year. This, coupled with the increased cost of logging operations, will not only maintain lumber prices at their present basis, but it is quite probable that higher prices will rule next season.

The mills in British Columbia are operating to their full capacity on export and local orders. A condition in the export trade which is causing manufacturers some anxiety is the scarcity of tonnage. It is almost impossible to secure vessels, and as high as 80s has been offered for the United Kingdom. It is understood that the Chemainus mills have orders in hand for upwards of 20,000,000 feet of lumber, chiefly for Great Britain, Australia and China, but they have been greatly handicapped through the absence of tonnage. The local demand is also very satisfactory, and prices are slightly stiffer.

UNITED STATES.

A mass meeting of lumbermen from all parts of the United States was held at St. Louis on December 12th. At this meeting reports were submitted which showed a shortage of dry stocks in nearly every class of lumber. This fact has given additional strength to the market. There is now little fear of prices weakening. Sales of No. 4 boards have been made at Duluth at \$11 on dock, and one sale of No. 3 boards at \$13.50 is reported. Piece stuff has been sold at Menominee, Mich., on the basis of \$12.50. These prices indicate the strong position held by low grade lumber. Buyers are contracting quite freely for mill cuts of next year, which would seem to show that they do not anticipate lower prices. In the eastern markets the demand is keeping up well, although a falling off such as might be expected at this season of the year is reported in certain grades. The enquiries for hardwoods are not so numerous as they were, and industrial establishments are likely to pursue a hand-to-mouth policy until after the new year. Basswood is in good demand at Buffalo, with the supply limited. Inch sells at \$26 and thick at \$30. A more plentiful supply of white ash is reported.

FOREIGN.

Reports come from all wood producing countries of an advance in the price of lumber. This has created a feeling of confidence in Great Britain, which country, it may be said, is the barometer of the lumber market. Contracts for first-open-water shipments have been made at figures which represent a considerable advance on the prices paid one year ago. Generally, stocks of Canadian lumber at the leading British ports are less than twelve months ago. The London dock returns show a decrease of 85,246 pieces in the stock of white pine, while of spruce

there is the important difference of 452,024 pieces as compared with the stock on December 1, 1898. At Birmingham, St. John spruce has lately advanced from £8 5s 3d to £8 15s for 3x7, from £8 7s 6d to £9 for 3x9, and from £8 15s to £10 10s for 3x11. At Glasgow a sale of 9 inch red pine is reported at 19 1/4d per cubic foot ex quay. In square and waney timber there have been some advances. Rock elm, for instance, is about 30 per cent. higher than it was two months ago.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

About 6,000,000 feet of logs will be taken out this winter for Sawyer's mill at Woodstock, N. B.

White, Fownes & White will cut 1,000,000 feet of lumber this winter at Mount Theobald, Carleton county, N.B.

W. C. & C. W. Elderkin, of Advocate Harbor, N.S., expect to cut about 4,000,000 feet of deals this winter.

Some loggers estimate that one billion feet of logs will be cut on the head waters of the Mississippi river this winter.

Geo. Niebergall & Sons have purchased 32 acres of timbered lands about three miles from their Camp Palmer mills.

The Bonny River Lumber Co., of Bonny River, N.B., are negotiating for the purchase of the Chipman timber lands.

John Engle and James Riley, of Vesta, Ont., have taken a contract from S. Pepper to cut all the soft elm on about 50 acres of land.

H. R. McLellan, of St. John, N.B., has taken an option on the Knight mill property and timber lands at Musquash, N.B., with a view to purchase. It is understood that the property is valued at \$100,000.

The Bell Telephone Co. want bids at their Winnipeg office, by January 1st, for the supply of 7,000 cedar poles, 25 feet long, to be delivered not later than May 31st, at points between Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Neepawa.

There was shipped from the Georgian Bay district to Bay City, Mich., this season, 13,193,637 feet of lumber and 5,202,705 pieces of lath. The exports of logs to Bay City and Saginaw were 24,522,808 feet, as compared with 147,000,000 feet in 1899.

Black river, in the province of New Brunswick, is the scene of extensive lumbering operations. J. & R. McLeod have a rotary mill in operation which will cut 1,000,000 feet of deals for the British market. T. B. Carson and James Doherty will manufacture a like amount.

James Scott, of Dumfries, N.B., has contracted to cut 2,000,000 feet of lumber, to be delivered at Magaquadavic lake, and a similar amount at Springhill, for John Campbell, jr. Another million is being cut by him for a St. John firm. W. J. Scott will cut about 2,000,000 feet on Deer lake for Murchie & Sons, of Calais.

CONDITIONS IN THE LIVERPOOL MARKET.

Messrs. Farnworth & Jardine, in their wood circular dated December 1st, review the timber market as follows:

The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 22,886 tons register, against 11,716 tons register during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1897,

1898, and 1899 has been 546,791, 474,741 and 497,567 tons respectively.

The business during the past month has again been satisfactory; the arrivals generally have been fairly moderate, and with an active demand there has been a good consumption, thus leaving stocks with few exceptions in a healthy condition; values for most of the leading articles show further improvement, and higher prices are anticipated for future business.

CANADIAN WOODS.—Pine timber.—Of waney the arrivals have been chiefly on contract, but a few consignments have met with ready sale at improved prices; there is more enquiry, the deliveries have been satisfactory and prices are very firm; stocks are light. Square is only in limited request, and the stock is sufficient. Red pine is light in stock, but the demand is very limited. Oak has arrived rather more freely; the demand continues dull, and there is no improvement in value to report; the stock is sufficient. Elm has been imported sparingly; there has been more enquiry, and recent sales have been at very high figures; the deliveries have been satisfactory, and stocks are moderate. Ash has been in better request, the stock is very small. Pine deals.—The arrivals have been lighter; there has been more enquiry, and the deliveries have been fairly satisfactory, but stocks, although further slightly reduced, are still too heavy; values, especially for 3rd and 4th quality regulars, have improved. Red pine deals, etc., continue in good demand at steady prices.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS.—The arrivals have been in excess of same month last year, viz., about 7,000 standards against 2,130 standards; the demand continues active and late sales have been the highest prices of the season; for later shipments a further advance is being asked. So far the rise in value has not affected the consumption, which has kept pace with the import, and stocks are not too large. Pine deals show a slight improvement.

BIRCH.—The import consists of a small parcel of Quebec wood; there has been fair enquiry, prices rule steady, and the stock is moderate. Planks have arrived more freely, and the deliveries have been satisfactory; there is more enquiry, and a considerable advance in price has been

established; the stock is almost exhausted, being only 2,000 cubic feet against 145,000 feet at the like time last year.

Current quotations are as follows:

	Per Foot.
White pine, Quebec square wood	11 3d to 25 4d
" " Waney board	25 0d to 25 10d
" " St. John, 18-in. average	11 0d to 25 2d
" " Dallouise, etc.	11 0d to 15 4d
Red pine	11 5d to 18 10d
Oak, 1st quality	25 9d to 35 0d
" 2nd quality	11 6d to 25 0d
Elm	11 6d to 25 0d
Ash	11 6d to 25 0d
Whitewood	11 4d to 15 10d
Birch, St. John	11 5d to 15 7d
" Quebec	11 4d to 15 11d
" Nova Scotia, etc.	11 2d to 15 6d
" planks	05 11d to 15 0d

	Per Stk.	£ s.	¢
Deals, Quebec, white, 1st quality	70	0	24 0
" " " 2nd quality	10	0	17 0
" " " 3rd quality	10	0	10 10
Spruce deals, St. John, Bangor, etc.	7	10	7 15
" " Nova Scotia, etc.	7	10	7 10
" boards, etc.	6	15	7 0

THE BARBADOS MARKET.

Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Co. review the Barbados lumber market as follows: The only arrival to report is the cargo per Allen A. McIntyre, from St. John, N.B., with about 130 M feet merchantable, 55 M small and 2nd quality white pine, and 22 M feet hemlock. We sold merchantable at \$22.20, small \$17, 2nd quality \$16, hemlock \$16. She had also 345 M cedar laying and 90 M spruce shingles (extra quality), sold former at \$2.55 and latter at \$2.35. In spruce lumber we continue our valuation at \$17 or thereabouts, and repeat that demand will shortly be setting in for requirements for the coming crop. The Duart Castle did not bring any Gaspe shingle, and there is no change to note in the position of Long Gaspe.

TIMBER BERTH WITHDRAWN.

Mr. Peter Ryan offered for sale by auction at the Queen's Hotel in Toronto, on December 20th, timber berth No. 1 in Monteith township, Parry Sound district. The berth comprises 16 1/2 square miles of virgin timber, and was purchased from the Ontario government some years ago when the dues on pine timber was \$1 per thousand feet instead of \$1.25 as at present. The license includes all the timber on the berth. Bidding was started at \$2,000 per mile and reached \$7,000, but there being no advance, it was withdrawn by the auctioneer at the request of the owners.

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