

**NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.**

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

ST. JOHN, N.B., December 31st, 1904.— Since last writing very little of importance has taken place in the local lumber market. Shipments of all kinds have been light during the past month, particularly shipments by schooner to New England ports, but not more so than usual at this time of year. The lack of stimulus which always accompanies the holidays is very noticeable in both the American and English markets. Very little is being done by any of the local firms in either of these directions, either in selling or delivering.

While the quiet season lasts in the English market any change in price is improbable, as there is not enough demand to cause an advance and offerings are so light that the probabilities of a drop are practically void.

On account of these conditions any attempt to use the prevailing figures as an indication of what will prevail in the English markets in the near future would be ill-advised. Just what conditions will be predominant when the winter lethargy has been dispelled from this market it is not possible to positively state. A decidedly optimistic feeling is prevalent among the manufacturers and dealers in these parts. They are looking forward to next season,

confident that it will show a great improvement over this season in prices and demand.

In regard to prices of English deals, it would be scarcely correct to say that there has been any general advance during the last month, but it is certain that a specification containing the usual percentages of widths and of an ordinary average length could not be bought, f.o.b. steamer St. John, less than \$12.50 per M s.f., two-thirds price for fourths and ends.

Shipments of English deals have been quite as heavy as is usual at this time of year. Although no cargo made up entirely of lumber has gone forward during that time, there were several large parcels shipped per the winter port steamers, and as there will be practically none manufactured in these parts for the next three months, there is no doubt that, when the time comes to resume sawing, it will find the wharves entirely cleaned up.

Since last writing lath have shown a further decline. As mentioned in my letter of December 1st, lath had dropped, following heavy receipts in New York and vicinity, from \$2.35 to \$2.10 per M, f.o.b. St. John. A drop of from 10 cents to 15 cents has now occurred, and Provincial lath can be bought at St. John for \$2.00 per M. Stocks are not at all heavy for

this time of the year, there being probably from four and one-half to five millions of lath distributed about the different wharves in this vicinity. In view of the decline in price mentioned above, it is altogether probable that the much greater part of these will be wintered in the hope that they will command a better figure in the early spring.

**WHITE PINE PRODUCTION AND STOCKS.**

The white pine mills at Duluth, Minn., manufactured during 1904 approximately 285,000,000 feet of lumber, this being a falling off of 104,000,000 feet when compared with the production in 1903. Of the entire cut the stocks on dock at Duluth and Superior towards the close of December aggregated only 51,301,000 feet. The American Lumberman gives the following statistics of the production and stocks at

the head of the lakes for the past eight years:

Year	Total amount lumber manufactured	Total amount lumber on dock Dec. 1	Total amount unsold on dock Dec. 1
1904	285,000,000	56,000,000	51,000,000
1903	389,000,000	105,000,000	48,000,000
1902	443,000,000	119,000,000	59,000,000
1901	428,000,000	132,000,000	41,000,000
1900	416,000,000	158,000,000	126,000,000
1899	436,000,000	170,000,000	37,000,000
1898	324,000,000	130,000,000	73,000,000
1897	290,000,000	129,000,000	109,000,000

**THE LATH DELAND.**

White pine and norway lath are exhibiting exceptional strength in value. There is an absolute shortage of this item. At the head of the lakes this condition is especially noticeable and it is commanding full list prices at all other points. The Mississippi Valley Lumberman says the situation cannot be remedied, but is calculated to become intensified with the advance of the building season. The mills are short of this stock and they cannot increase their output within time to meet the requirements of the demand.

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