UNITED STATES.

The lumber outlook of the United States has improved during the past week to the extent that prospects have brightened for an early resumption of work by the building trades of New York. This has been a great barrier to lumber consumption all season, and when business again resumes its normal condition the effect upon the lumber trade should be telling. While admitting a slight falling off in orders, the volume of business has been of very fair proportions. Saginaw dealers report a slow movement of the upper grades of white pine but more activity in the lower grades. Dimension and box lumber are very strong, the demand for dry stock being in excess of the supply. Lower prices on these grades cannot be looked for this season. Hemlock lumber is exhibiting greater strength. An advance of 50 cents is expected at any time at Tonawanda, while last week the Northwestern Hemlock Association adopted a new list on Wisconsin hemlock making an advance of 50 cents on No. 2 piece stuff and a slight advance on ship-lap. The supply of hardwood lumber has become greater, although as yet not sufficient to enable the mills to accumulate any stock. The high prices for oak will no doubt stimulate production this season, and it would not be surprising if that lumber should weaken towards the fall. Other lumbers which have not advanced in the same proportions are very likely to remain firm. A better supply of basswood at Buffalo is reported. In that market it sells readily at $40 for inch of best quality.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Advices from Great Britain indicate that the prospective buyer of lumber is more inclined to give due consideration to the possibility of a shortage in the Canadian supply. There is less disposition to defer the closing of contracts in the hope of being able to purchase at lower prices. The market is holding its own and would probably strengthen if a better demand for building lumber should develop. The statistics of stocks on hand at the leading ports show an improved position over that of last year. The stock of pine and spruce deals is slightly smaller. At Liverpool the supply of waney and square pine is only 73,000 cubic feet, which is an unusually small quantity.

Pine deals are in good demand, particularly first and second qualities. Cargoes of spruce deals have been placed at £7 10s c.i.f. for specifications containing 60 to 70 per cent. of 7 and 8 inch. First class waney pine is wanted and may command a higher figure than has yet been obtained. Oak is also much inquired for. Elm has improved of late, the buying evidently being by persons who have held off but are now of the opinion that the anticipated weakness is not likely to develop. While market opinions do not agree in every particular, the majority of importers believe that the market wil be firm until the fall at least.

The steamer Atbara sailed from Three Rivers, Que., last week for Glasgow, Scotland, with a cargo of deals.

NEW BRUNSWICK CEDAR SHINGLES.

New Brunswick shingles are in fair demand and prices are steady. Apparently the manufacturers have decided that there is only a fair margin in shingles at $1.50 basis and purpose accepting no business at lower prices. This fact in itself is a strong indication that prices will be firmly maintained during the remainder of the year.

For many years past the consumption of shingles has equalled the production, and while stocks have accumulated every year during the hot weather, say, from July 15 to September 15, yet Christmas has invariably found the mill yards generally bare. Those manufacturers (and there were wise enough to hold their production during the heated term have generally gotten fancy prices late in the fall, after the bulk of the shingles had been moved. This object lesson has been taken to heart, and the great majority of shingle producers have acquired more nerve and do not now hasten to cut prices and thereby demoralize the market the moment they get on hand a few cars of shingles for which they have no orders. Again, the manufacturers now generally make prices on their production themselves instead of allowing some commission house to make figures for them. This makes it impossible for the commission men to cut prices to effect large sales at the cost of the manufacturer, and in itself tends to maintain prices.

For the last two months the wholesale and retail trade have been expecting N.B. shingles to weaken in price in sympathy with red cedar shingles. Retailers have refrained from buying because they figured on lower prices later. The lower prices have not materialized, and retail stocks have run down to a point where they must buy soon or be out of shingles. The labor troubles are being settled; the outlook is better for house construction; the drought is broken and the country yards are taking fresh courage.

At the manufacturing end of the line a considerable quantity of logs has been hung up and there is now a certainty that the 1903 production will be less, if anything, than the quantity produced in 1902. Absolutely the only unfavorable factor in the outlook is the low price of Pacific Coast red cedars. As this has not been able to affect prices of N.B. cedars during the last two months, there is reason to suppose that it will be unable to do so the remainder of the season, and that manufacturers of N.B. cedars may look for a steady market for some time to come and probably somewhat higher prices after October. We may further say that all low grades—clears and poorer—are in excellent demand, and that stock is well cleaned up at full prices. Prices quoted f.o.b. Boston points for standard brands are: Extras, $3.50; clears, $3.00; 2nd clears, $2.35 to $2.40; clear whites, $2.25 to $2.30; extra No. 1, $1.65 to $1.75. As usual some small mills are selling 5 to 10 cents off the list.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

A second boom of logs, comprising 3,000,000 feet, has arrived at the Burtis mill at Thessalon, Ont.

The schooner F.M. Knapp cleared last week from Thessalon, Ont., for Cleveland, with 415,000 feet of pine lumber.

A report from the Saginaw valley says that shingles are sluggish and 15 cents per thousand lower than two months ago. The red shingle situation is a little brighter.

The first raft of the season was taken over the Chaudiere slides at Ottawa last week. It contained 120 cribs of square timber belonging to Gillies Bros., of Braeside, and was en route to Quebec.

The tugs Harrison and Maitland reached Owen Sound, Ont., last week with a raft of 1,300,000 feet of hemlock, cedar and pine, from Meldrum Bay. The timber will be sawn at Maitland, Rixon & Company's mill.

The barque Argentina is loading lumber at Bear River, N.S., for Buenos Ayres. The barque Grenada is loading lumber at same port for Buenos Ayers, Clarke Bros. being the shippers. The schooner Margaret Risley is loading at Annapolis, N.S., for West Indies.

CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

From Sorel, Que.: Str. Nordboen, for London, England, 676 hundred standards pine deals, value $29,320, by Tourville Lumber Mills Co. Str. Bangor Head, for Dublin, 89 hundred standards spruce deals, value $2,761, by Tourville Lumber Mills Co.

From Annapolis, N. S.: Barque Jamer Daley, for Cuba, cargo lumber.

From Bear River, N. S.: Schr. Leah A. Whidden, for Cienfugos, cargo lumber.

From Hopewell Cape, N. B.: Barque Aveca, for Liverpool, England, 1,378,523 ft. birch and spruce deals, value $16,068, by J. Nelson Smith. Str. Tanagra, for Manchester, Eng., 3,144,580 ft. spruce deals, ends and scantling, value $36,191, by W. Malcolm Mackay.

From Yarmouth, N. S.: Barque Antigua, for Buenos Ayres, 454,000 ft. lumber, value $6,155, 211,000 ft. scantling, value $3,164, by Dickie & McGrath, of Tusket. Barque Hillside, for Buenos Ayres, 308,000 ft. lumber, value $4,618, 224,000 ft. scantling, value $3,241, by Dickie & McGrath. Barque Lakeside, for Buenos Ayres, 902,000 ft. lumber, value $13,083, by Parker, Eakins & Co.

From Halifax, N. S.: Str. Ocamo, for Trinidad, 50,874 ft. spruce lumber, value $950. Str. Carthaginian, for Glasgow, 105,550 ft. hemlock deals, value $854. Schr. Regina B., for St. Pierre, 59,817 ft. spruce boards, value $626. Schr. Carrie E., for St. Pierre, 54,943 ft. spruce lumber, value $575, 11,000 laths, value $25.

From St. John, N. B.: Schr. Frank, for Quency, 1,100,000 cedar shingles, by Charles Miller. Schr. Ravola, for Fall River, 945,000 laths, by Stetson, Cutler & Co. Schr. Alice Maud, for Vineyard Haven, 147,466 ft. spruce deals, by Stetson, Cutler & Co. Schr. Lyra, for Boston, 97,221 ft. plank, 30,337 ft. scantling, by A. Cushing & Co. Schr. Ayr, for Vineyard Haven, 81,980 ft. scantling, 222,000 laths, 4,283 ft. plank, by Stetson, Cutler & Co. Schr. Corinto, for Boston, 130,000 ft. boards, by Murray & Gregory. Schr. Maggie Miller, for Bridgeport, 600,800 ft. lath, by Dunn Bros. Schr. Fay, for Bridgeport, 106,075 ft. plank, 64,390 ft. scantling, by A. Cushing & Co. Schr. Rewa, for New York, 47,893 ft. pine plank, 45,030 ft. spruce plank, 56,597 ft. scantling, 51,271 ft. boards, by A. Cushing & Co. Schr. Quetay, for City Island, 164,871 ft. boards and plank, by Stetson, Cutler & Co. Str. Mara Kolb, for Brow Head, England, 1,981,760 ft. deals and battens, 46,512 ft. scantling, 100,421 ft. ends, 194,425 ft. boards, 171 tons birch timber, by A. Gibson Railway & Mfg. Co. Schr. Rossa Mueller, for Philadelphia, 1,464,000 laths, by Thomas Bell. Str. Orinoco, 31 bundles matched boards for Bermuda, 100 bundles shingles for Antigau, 400 bundles shingles for Barbadoes, by J. Willard Smith. Str. Luectra, for Barrow, England, 2,672,549 ft. deals, 171,717 ft. scantling, 65,213 ft. ends, 36,701 ft. boards, by W.M. Mackay. Str. Bergenhus, for Brow Head, England, 282,583 ft. deals, 238,524 ft. scantling, 194,525 ft. ends, 33,233 ft. birch plank, 4,329 ft. birch ends, by W. M. Mackay. Schr. Lena Maud, for Salem, 127,616 ft. boards, 3,607 ft. scantling, by Stetson, Cutler & Co. Schr. Ida May, for Providence, 70,177 ft. plank, 93,056 ft. scantling, by A. Cushing & Co.

From Montreal: Str. Holmlea, for Hull, 60,467 pcs. deal, boards and ends, by R. Cox & Co. Str. Chickley, for Newcastle-on-Tyne, 68,021 pcs. deals, boards and ends, by Watson & Todd. Str. Arstein, for Waterford, via Three Rivers, 19,890 pcs. deals and timber, by Dobell, Beckett & Co.

OUTLOOK FOR THE DRIVES.

The outlook for the log drives in New Brunswick has improved slightly during the past week. Some rain has fallen, but it is yet extremely doubtful whether the rivers will rise sufficiently to bring out the logs that are hung up. The situation in Maine is equally uncertain. Upwards of 175,000,000 feet of logs were cut last winter on the Penobscot river, but as yet none of these have reached the boom.

John McAllister, operating for Cushing & Company, is hung up at Allegash Falls with 3,000,000 feet, and Mr. Sweenore, operating for W. H. Murray, has 5,000,000 feet hung up. R. Aitken is reported to be meeting with much difficulty on the Aroostook river, with the prospect that both the cut of this and last season, reaching about 7,000,000 feet, will be hung up.

The situation on other rivers is not so serious as on the St. John. The drives on the Restigouche are all out and the cuts this year at Campbellton and Dalhousie will be fully up to the average and will include a large quantity of cedar.

The drives on the Miramichi river are moving along fairly well. The cut on this river last winter was as follows:

	Feet.
Wm. Richards	16,000,000
Lynch	14,000,000
Welch	10,000,000
Robinson	3,500,000
Ritchie	10,000,000
Hutchison	9,000,000
Snowball	22,000,000
Burchill	2,500,000
Sinclair	3,500,000
O'Brien	1,500,000
D. J. and J. D. Buckley	3,500,000
Vaughan	10,000,000
Damery & McDonald	3,000,000
Gibson	7,000,000
D. Sullivan & Sons	3,500,000
Smaller parties	10,000,000
Total	129,000,000

BROOM HANDLES.

If an enterprising man with supplies of cheap Spruce, Basswood or Poplar cares to put in several machines to work broom handles we can take his output. Write in first instance to Empire, care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.