

for some time will continue in a more or less degree. Persons who have required lumber but who have refrained from making purchases have not as yet been rewarded by lower prices, nor do they seem likely to be in the near future. There is a strong demand for mill run basswood and birch.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

There is still an upward tendency to the spruce market. Very few manufacturers are in a position to accept large orders on account of the depleted condition of their yard stocks. The scarcity of logs is exercising no little influence on the market, as several of the large mills in St. John are likely to be compelled to shut down for this reason. The proposal of the Government to increase the stumpage dues has also served to stiffen the price of lumber. A memorial has been presented to the Government by the lumbermen setting forth that if the stumpage is to be increased it should be collected only on merchantable logs.

There are fairly large offerings of low grade shingles at \$3.35 to \$3.40 for extras and \$2.85 to \$2.90 for clears for Boston delivery. The best brands are held at \$3.50 and \$3.

UNITED STATES.

A revival of the demand for lumber in the Lake Superior district has had a good effect upon the market generally. The shipments from Minneapolis during last week were over ten million feet, and stocks are now so broken that a moderate demand through the fall and winter months might make it comparatively easy for manufacturers to advance prices. The buying seems to be largely for immediate consumption, which indicates that stocks carried by consumers are light. At Menominee, Mich., there is practically no low grade lumber to be purchased. Prices of these grades are \$15 for No. 3, \$13 for No. 4, and \$10 for No. 5. In the Wisconsin district there is less activity, there being very little call for the higher grades but a fair movement of common and culls. The eastern markets are steady and trade moderately active excepting in New York, where the labor troubles seem to be in an almost hopeless condition so far as an early settlement is concerned. It is estimated that fifty million dollars of capital that would otherwise have gone into building operations this winter and next spring has been held back by the existing difficulties.

Buffalo dealers report sales to be as numerous as at the corresponding time last year. There is a heavy call for Norway lumber on account of its low price as compared with white pine. There has been no falling off in the demand for the hardwoods. Maple, ash and oak are inquired for more frequently than the other kinds. Maple flooring still exhibits weak-

ness and little effort is being made to maintain the list prices. Hemlock holds a strong position in the lumber trade, there being absolutely no surplus anywhere. Dealers are behind on orders. The basis for piece stuff at Chicago is \$1.4.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In the face of adverse circumstances the British lumber market has shown symptoms of firmness. The retail market is steady and was not influenced to any extent by the failure of an important Liverpool firm of importers. It is stated that a few transactions for next season's shipments have been closed, and that prices correspond very closely with the values that have ruled during the past three months. British importers appear at last to be recognizing the fact that shippers are aiming to limit the output to suit the demand, this policy being due in a large measure to the increased cost of the raw material. A Cardiff correspondent states that spruce has made a further advance, £8 5s. being now asked for cargoes from St. John. Recent auction sales have also brought higher prices for pine and spruce lumber. Second quality spruce deals, 3 x 9, brought £10 5s, and third quality £9 10s. Some Miramichi fourth quality, 3 x 12, 7 and 9 inch, sold at £8 5s and £8 10s. The season is now so far advanced that there is no possibility of any large quantity of lumber being sent forward on consignment, the knowledge of which fact has created a more hopeful feeling. It is stated that some orders for Quebec spruce have been refused by the manufacturers on this side, as their output had already been taken.

GRADING OF CANADIAN TIMBER FOR EXPORT.

The CANADA LUMBERMAN recently had the honor of a visit from three prominent representatives of the British timber industry, who had come to Canada for the purpose of attending the Congress of Representatives of the British Chambers of Commerce in Montreal. These were Mr. William Kay, of Bolton, England. Mr. Gradwell, of William Gradwell & Company, Barrow-in-Furness, England, and Mr. Ward Layle, of Wisbech, England, the latter being the representative of the British Timber Trades Federation.

These gentlemen, on behalf of the British timber importers, complained of the lack of proper grading of Canadian timber shipped to Great Britain. It was formerly the custom of shippers to deduct waney timber, and to mark with a "V" fourth quality. It is said, however, that now many shippers fail to put any mark to indicate the grade. British importers complain that in the case of Canadian shipments the standard grades are not being maintained, and that in consequence they find themselves in constant difficulty with their customers in the retail trade.

It is urged that Canadian manufacturers and shippers should cut off the waney part of the timber, and see to it that the grades are maintained, even though the quantity of the higher grades should thereby be materially reduced. This, it is claimed, is done by the exporting firms in Sweden and other countries which ship timber into the British market—in proof whereof it is stated that not more than about 5 per cent. of first quality deals are now received from Archangel, but this 5 per cent. is known to be first quality.

As regards red pine deals, for which there is said to be an excellent demand, it is urged that they should be properly marked with stencil (not pencil) on the ends of the deals, so that the mark will be always visible from the wagon to those who load and unload the timber. The British representatives stated that the best deals received from Canada are those which come from Miramichi; they are said to be much superior to those received from St. John.

We have pleasure in directing the attention of Canadian manufacturers and shippers to this important matter, as if Canada is to compete successfully with other exporting countries, equal attention must be given to the requirements of the British market.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The barque Falkirk is loading lumber at the Hastings mill, Vancouver, for South Africa.

The barque Reform is loading a cargo of lumber at Yarmouth, N.S., for Buenos Ayres.

The steamer Henrich Manzell is loading a cargo of deals at Musquash, N. B., for the United Kingdom.

Twenty-one vessels arrived at North Tonawanda, N. Y., during the fourth week of September, with over 14,000,000 feet of lumber.

It is estimated that 300,000,000 feet of lumber have been carried by barge on the Ottawa River this season, chiefly for export to Great Britain.

J. E. Hickman, of Port Elgin, N.B., are loading the steamer "Holme" with lumber for the United Kingdom. The cargo will consist of about 1,000,000 feet.

Lumber shipments from the port of St. John, N.B., are light. Last week they aggregated 1,785,000 feet of long lumber, 3,135,000 shingles and 1,108,000 laths.

Lath are almost a drug on the Chicago market. Prices range from \$3 upwards. Hemlock lath is nominally \$3.20 a thousand, but prices are made as low as \$3.

The Barque Cimpa Emilia has just loaded a cargo of birch and spruce deals at Tuskent, N.S., for Bristol Channel. The barque Volve is loading 1,500,000 ft. of lumber, for Buenos Ayres.

The Canadian Pacific Lumber Company, of Port Moody, B.C., has purchased Clem & McLeod's logging camp up the coast and will conduct logging operations on the limit on a large scale.

The Fraser River Lumber Company, of New Westminster, B. C., have about 1,000 cords of shingle bolts in the Whonock Creek awaiting the fall rains to take them down the river to their mill.

There is a great scarcity of all sorts of cooperage stock. Coopers are asking 40 cents for apple barrels and several cents more for flour barrels, and say they are not able to make a satisfactory profit at that. Buffalo jobbers quote first-class elm staves at \$10.50 to \$10.75, and second-class as high as \$9. Basswood heading sells for 8 to 8½ cents for first-class and 5½ to 6 cents for second-class. Coiled hoops are \$10 to \$10.50 for 5½-foot and \$10.75 for 6-foot.

The Department of Interior at Ottawa will receive tenders up to Wednesday, November 11th, for license: to cut timber on the following berths in the district of Alberta: Berth No. 1099, on the Athabasca River, 44 square miles; Berth No. 1096, on the McLeod River, 24 square miles; Berth No. 1098, on the north side Brazeau River, 40 square miles; and Berth No. 1097, on south side of Brazeau River, about 100 square miles; also Berth No. 1101, comprising 50 square miles in townships 40, 41 and 42, in the Province of Manitoba.

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