

ducts having greatly improved of late. Upon Boston rate of freight extra cedar shingles are now quoted at about \$3.15 to \$3.25. From New Brunswick and Nova Scotia heavy shipments of lumber are being made to South America, from which quarter a heavy demand has lately arisen. In Quebec there have been heavy rains, but in New Brunswick the lumbermen are meeting with difficulty owing to their logs being hung up on account of low water.

UNITED STATES.

Peculiarly favorable conditions characterize the lumber trade of the United States. Notwithstanding the many advances in price lists which have been made, there is a tendency to mark prices still higher. Freight rates from Lake Superior to the Eastern market have now reached \$4.50, which dealers are paying very reluctantly. In the face of this and of the acknowledged shortage in lumber, there is little fear of any break in prices before the spring of 1900 at least. Some of the best authorities state that the stocks of lumber on hand at the opening of the new year will be the lightest known in years. In the Tonawanda market there is a tendency on the part of dealers to advance prices on box lumber and No. 3 barn, of which there is a decided shortage, while mill culls are nowhere to be found in any quantity. In the Saginaw valley log run ranges from \$16 to \$25, box from \$15 to \$16, Norway from \$12 to \$18, and mill culls from \$12 to \$14. Hemlock has undergone an advance of one dollar per thousand at Buffalo and New York, being quoted at the base price of \$13.50 and \$16 at the respective points. Hardwoods have not changed. Canadian hardwood lumber, such as ash, elm, basswood and maple, is eagerly sought for, and at prices if anything higher than quotations of one week ago. White ash is quoted at Boston at \$45 for 1-inch, \$50 for 1 1/2 and 1 3/4, and \$55 for 2-inch. One-inch maple sells at \$27, 1 1/2-inch at \$29, 1 3/4-inch at \$30, 2-inch at \$31, and 3 and 4 inch at \$37.

Lath is still strong, white pine selling at Chicago at \$4 and dry mixed at \$3.75. In the Saginaw valley quotations are \$3.50 and \$3.75. Shingles are selling at Buffalo on a basis of \$4 for best 18-inch white pine, \$3.75 for red cedar, and \$3.70 for white cedar.

FOREIGN.

The reports from the British market are of an encouraging character. Prices are advancing, and importers who purchased at high prices now feel confident that they will be able to make a fair margin of profit, thanks to the high freight rates and insurance charges. Spruce in particular is strengthening. A cargo of 800 standards, from Grandstone Island, Que., was sold about the middle of September at £6 15s per standard to a west coast buyer, and probably £7 is about the average selling quotation at the present time. Less than one month ago sales were made as low as £6 12s, which gives a fair idea of the rapidity of the advance. Some merchants are storing stocks of spruce, upon the belief that by the new year a shortage will develop in this class of lumber and that high prices will rule. At present the high values have a tendency to check business, but as the consumers satisfy themselves that the advance is to be maintained, business will resume its normal condition. While the pine demand is not as strong as spruce, there are evidences of firmness in that market.

France and Germany are reported to be buying considerable lumber, but prices are not altogether satisfactory. The South American demand appears to be steadily expanding, while in Australia the trade has shown a slight improvement, although no advance in price has been made.

The barque Baldwin sailed from Bear River, N.S., for Buenos Ayres last week, with a cargo of lumber, shipped by Clarke Bros.

The steamer Darwent Holme is loading a cargo of deals at Quebec for Honfleur, France, consigned by McLean, Kennedy & Co.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Taylor, Scott & Co., Toronto, want five cars of inch soft maple lumber.

The Imperial Lumber Co., of Toronto, are reported to have purchased the Booth & Gordon stock of lumber at Sudbury, Ont.

The Hanbury Manufacturing Co., of Brandon, Man., will get out about 12,000,000 feet of logs this winter, chiefly of spruce and tamarac.

The Harbor Commissioners of Montreal are inviting tenders for the annual supply of timber and planks for the year 1900. The date limit is October 9th.

On September 25th the booms at the mouth of the Gatineau river gave way, and about 150,000 logs belonging to Ottawa lumbermen went adrift in the Ottawa river.

Peter Wallace, of Midland, Ont., has gone to Eighteen Mile Island, French River, where he will cut about 2,000,000 feet of logs for Chew Bros., of Midland. He has a contract to cut all the timber on the island in three years.

M. P. Kinsella, representing the Gilmore Company, of Trenton, Ont., has placed an order with J. D. Carew, of Lindsay, for 100,000 feet of dimension lumber and about 400,000 feet of hemlock and pine. The stock will be shipped to Trenton.

The Department of Indian Affairs at Ottawa invites tenders up to October 12th for 500,000 feet of standing spruce timber on the Crane river Indian Reserve, on the north-west side of Lake Manitoba. The timber is subject to Crown dues of 80 cents per thousand feet.

Following is a comparative statement of timber, &c., measured and culled at Quebec to October 3rd, 1899:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Waney white pine, cu feet.	1,122,493	815,975	1,778,574
Square white pine, cu feet	822,286	1,069,934	501,121
Red pine, cu feet	210,451	230,339	159,937
Oak, cu feet	1,428,471	918,044	522,178
Elm, cu feet	662,147	474,194	45,181
Ash, cu feet	132,525	34,715	56,246
Basswood, cu feet	5		
Butternut, cu feet	877	055	60
Tamarac, cu feet	397		4.5
Birch and Maple, cu feet	71,174	12,500	244,530

Owing to the recent heavy rains, the boom at the St. Maurice Lumber Co.'s mill at Three Rivers, Que., broke on September 27th, carrying away between 15,000 and 20,000 logs. Later the government booms, containing about 50,000 logs, and the immense booms of the Laurentide Pulp Co., at Grand Mere, Que., gave way, allowing about 200,000 logs to be swept out into the St. Lawrence. The loss to the owners will be quite heavy.

The Keewatin Lumber Co., of Keewatin, Ont., have experienced a very busy season, operating their mill night and day. In the winter of 1898-99 the company cut on their limits on Lake of the Woods 10,000,000 feet of logs. This, together with the timber procured from Minnesota, made a total for the year's operations of 21,000,000 feet. Some of these logs, however, will be carried over for sawing next spring before the drives arrive.

At an auction sale of wood goods held by Foy, Morgan & Co., London, Eng., on September 20th, spruce deals sold as follows: Ex Ureta Holme, from Quebec—12 ft. 2 x 7 m. first quality, £9; 6 11 ft., 2 x 7, £8 10s; 7 15 ft., 2 x 5, £8 10s; 6-8 ft., 3 x 6 in., second quality, £7 5s; 6 8 ft., 3 x 6, third quality, £6 12s 6d; 6 14 ft., 2 x 5, £6. Ex Halifax City, from St. John—3-22 ft., 3 x 10 17 in., unassorted, £7 15s; 3-21 in., 3 x 9, £7 10s. Some 5,000 pieces of spruce palings, 4 ft. x 3-4 x 3 in., from Miramichi, N. B., sold at 6s 3d per 120 pieces.

BUFFALO AND TONAWANDA.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

There is just now a rush of dealers from this side into Canada after pine lumber. The prices have gone up so high that there is a general uneasiness over the future, so it was felt that if there was anything that looked like relief across the line it was high time to go after it. This move has greatly increased the amount of lumber to come in from Canada this fall. The purchase of 20,000,000 feet by the Montgomery's at Midland and other Georgian Bay points will swell the importation,

but as a rule the dealer who is after Canadian lumber is going into by-districts for it, in the hope of getting it at a more moderate price. In some cases he will succeed, for nobody is any too well posted on the condition of the market, but he will have to sit on the pile till it is on the way to his own yard in some cases. There is any amount of complaint that the saw mill man has struck a customer who will pay more for the stock and has sold it again.

One or two Buffalo dealers are looking into the law of the case and will bring suit if there seems to be any chance of recovery, but as a rule there is no remedy, for the law obliges the purchaser to prove actual damages which in many cases he is not able to do, so he takes what comfort he can in grumbling.

This matter of keeping posted on the condition of the market is no small source of wonder to those who are always well abreast of it. They are always able to find dealers right at home who are continually selling their lumber at less than market prices, and doing this with no particular end in view, all because they are not posted. Others who are aware of this are sometimes afraid that too much of the situation will be given away by the trade papers. From their own standpoint this is a correct idea, but if the business as a whole is to be made the most of, the clearest and most complete view of the state of trade must be had on all sides, without reference to individual demands.

All sorts of lumber is still going up, most of it quite rapidly. The hemlock producers have been beset so terribly for stock that they could not turn out that they kept putting up the price 50 cents at a time all summer in the hope of shutting off the demand, but this had so little apparent effect on it that they at last ordered it up one dollar, making the base price \$13.50 at wholesale and \$16.50 at retail. This has frightened the builders, and will have the effect of shutting out speculative building to a great extent, especially as the price of everything else in the building line is also very high.

The advance in price, next to hemlock, is in pine, which is now at fever height and is still going up. There have been meetings of dealers in both Buffalo and Tonawanda within a week to advance pine still further, though nothing has as yet been done more than to appoint committees for a general conference. It is expected that there will be representatives here or at some convenient point from all the Lake Erie markets and Saginaw in a short time for another general order of advance.

There was a general complaint all through the summer that Albany was not in line with this market on prices, and a committee was appointed to go there and confer with the

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trade, but before it was ready to go word was received that the prices had already been put up. Whether Albany had been taking advantage of cheaper prices from Canada, which have now been withdrawn, is mere conjecture.

The report from Canada now is that the prices on pine are for the most part fully up to ours, minus the duty, so that there is no chance of special profit there except on odd lots that may still be found here and there. Still there is going to be considerable bought there from this time on, unless the prices get too steep, for the scarcity at home is such that it is hard to find a supply of lumber that is desirable. There is no longer any chance of buying this or that just as it may happen to be wanted. The seller sells as he likes. He is in command of the situation and will not sell the cream and leave the rest on his hands. In spite of our high prices, they have all been enforced by the attitude of the producer, as a matter of self-defence. As a rule the prices are still lower than should be the case if the asking prices at the mills are made the basis, and if it were not that our sales are mostly made of lumber bought some months ago, and therefore at a price considerably lower than we can buy for now, there would be actual loss.

What is to happen when the prices come to a standstill and then begin to drop, as must be the case sooner or later? Nobody looks for such a change right away, but everybody is expecting it sometime, and there is much uneasiness in the pine trade over the prospect.

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