

TORONTO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FIG. 9.—Trade, considering the severe weather of the past two weeks, has been fair; wholesale dealers, in fact, have been able to dispose of the greater part of their stocks as fast as it came in by rail. More especially has this been the case in regard to cutting up and better, 1½ in. and 2 in., much more of this class of lumber could be disposed of if it could be obtained. Enquiries from the west have come in freely since the present month opened. Several American buyers have also put in their appearance lately, but as predicted in some of my previous letters, we have nothing to sell of the class of lumber they require. Everything in the shape of good cuts and better is shipped out from the mills and factory men will have to keep their dry kilns in operation until the new stock is in fit condition to ship.

It is generally conceded that the outlook for the spring trade is good, although brick building cannot be pushed forward until late in the spring, as bricks are entirely run out, and builders will have to wait until the first kilns are burnt.

The larger part of the wholesale dealers have taken a step in the right direction by resolving not to break up car loads. This will give the retail men a much better chance and the wholesalemen will be better off at the end of season. Car load lots when piled off by the track side and broken up rarely hold out in measurement and sometimes disappear entirely, perhaps not in all cases by direct theft, but hauled away by mistake for other lumber, but unfortunately the mistake is rarely found out and rectified. Retail men also have hitherto been able to get parts of cars, but under the present rule if they desire any part of a car load they will have to purchase the entire load in order to obtain the particular portion they desire. It only remains for the wholesale men to go a step further and let the retail men do the entire trade with the consumer. There would be nothing lost by taking this additional step. The same amount of lumber would be disposed of and in a more satisfactory way, and the retailers by reason of better trade, or more of it, would be in better shape to meet their engagements with wholesale men.

Prices remain at the yards about the same, except on dressing and better plank, the latter will command from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per M above former quotations, owing, of course to its present scarcity. Bill stuff will likely advance 20 cents per M with the opening of the spring work, this being the advance now on car load lots.

Mill cull boards and scantling.....	\$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.....	12 00
stocks.....	13 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.....	13 00
" " " 18 ft.....	14 00
" " " 21 ft.....	15 00
" " " 22 ft.....	16 00
" " " 24 ft.....	17 00
" " " 26 ft.....	18 00
" " " 28 ft.....	19 00
" " " 30 ft.....	20 00
" " " 32 ft.....	21 00
" " " 34 ft.....	22 50g
" " " 36 ft.....	24 00
" " " 38 ft.....	27 00
" " " 40 to 44 ft.....	30 00

Setting up planks to dry.....	20 00	25 00
" boards " 	20 00	20 00
ound drawing stocks.....	10 00	15 00
Picks Am. inspection.....	30 00	30 00
Three uppers, Am. inspection.....	35 00	40 00

D. M.		
1	1-inch Booring, dressed	25 00 30 00
1	" " rough	14 00 15 00
1	" " dressed	23 00 25 00
1	" " undressed	14 00
1	" " dressed	18 00 20 00
1	" " undressed	12 00 14 00
1	1/2 Banded Sheeting, dressed	15 00 20 00
1	Clapboarding, dressed	12 00
1	XXX sawn shingles, P M	2 50 2 00
1	Sawn Lath	2 25
1	Red oak	30 00 25 00
1	White "	25 00 30 00
1	Basswood, No. 1 & 2	14 00 20 00
1	Cherry, No. 1 & 2	30 00 00 00
1	White ash 1 & 2	25 00 30 00
1	Black ash 1 & 2	20 00 25 00

OTTAWA

From Our Own Correspondents.

FIG. 3.—The chief lumbermen of this district are awakening to the fact that there is competition in the field which will have a tendency to reduce their profits and curtail their

operations in no inconsiderable manner. I refer to the export of unsawn lumber from the Nipissing and Lake Superior section to the saw mills in Michigan. I had a talk with several of the prominent men in the trade on this subject, and they give it as their opinion that unless an export duty is placed on all crude lumber taken out of Canada their prospects will be seriously crippled. "We don't object," said one well known Ottawa river lumberman, "to Americans, or American capital coming in here, for the more money comes in the better for the country, but we do strongly object to these men coming in here, cutting logs and exporting them to their mills on the other side, without paying one cent into the revenue of the country, while the lumber which we export we have to pay a high duty on. This is unfair to us and we shall do all in our power to bring this matter before parliament as soon as convenient after the session opens. The way things stand now we are materially handicapped, and I think the Dominion Government should place an export duty of \$3 per 'thousand feet on all crude lumber shipped out of the Dominion. For some time past Michigan millowners have been quietly buying up untouched timber limits on the Nipissing and Lake Superior section with a view to supplying their mills. Their own forests are thinned out, and looking around for new fields they have selected the sections I have named on account of their convenience. Several of these American companies have already secured valuable limits on the Whanapitow river alone, and own hundreds of miles of territory over which they can operate. One of these companies, the Emery Lumber Company, have a very large limit on the stream referred to, and are now putting out logs to the number of 70,000. As the stream is particularly easy of driving no difficulty will be experienced in getting them into Georgian Bay. The company have had two barges specially constructed for the transportation of these logs. These barges will be 500 feet long and 50 wide, and will be loaded with an endless chain, similar to that used in a saw mill. The motive power will be supplied by a small engine. The deck of these barges will be elevated, and on arriving at the Bay City booms the sides of the barge can be lowered so that the process of unloading can be done very expeditiously. Each of these barges are capable of carrying from four to five thousand logs in one cargo. This process," continued the lumberman, "gives them a great advantage. We have to drive our logs and other timber for hundreds of miles, construct costly improvements for the purpose of forwarding the work, and even then run the risk of having the logs stuck and our capital lying idle for a year, while these American firms are certain of getting their logs to the saw, and at an early date in the season. This, with their not paying any export duty, gives them an unfair advantage over us which should be remedied, and we are bound to bring all the pressure we can on the Government to protect the native industry of the Ottawa Valley. If these men erected mills on their limits and sawed the lumber here, giving employment to Canadian labor and making a market for Canadian produce, it would be all right enough. But to strip our forests of their best timber, and pay nothing for the privilege, save the price for the limit, is making too much."

The feeling is very strong amongst the Ottawa river lumbermen just now on this question, and most likely the Dominion Parliament will be called upon to devise a scheme whereby the lumber industry may be protected against foreign competition.

WINNIPEG.

The *Commercial* says:—There has been no factor of any kind to induce a movement in this trade. No building operations are being gone on with at present, and there is no apparent disposition to anticipate wants for the future. Consequently business is dead, so far as any present movement is concerned. Some shipments were made to the new stations along the lately constructed railway line, but these are now about supplied. The next move will probably be towards far western points, where the building season commences considerably earlier than in Manitoba.

LIVERPOOL.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of Jan. 30th says:—With the exception of the interest created by the public sales of this week, the trade has evidently relapsed into the same dreary groove in which it ran so long last year, and from the general run of conversation there is not likely to be any material change in it for some time to come.

Importers do not seem disposed to contract for cargoes to arrive, and it is probable that sellers will experience quite as great difficulties as they have already done in placing future supplies upon the market.

There is a general opinion amongst the leading merchants and bankers that some signs of improvement in trade are discernible in America, and as such a movement is not unfrequently followed on this side, there may be better times in store for us at no distant date, but the timber trade is generally the last to participate in any upward movement.

Then again, this market is likely to be fully supplied with pitch-pine and spruce during the coming season, which with the sufficient stocks on hand, will tend to keep prices down to a low level. If your neighbors in Manchester could only get their Ship Canal scheme floated and their set works going, we should, no doubt, participate in the general spending of the money, as a considerable quantity of timber of one kind or another will necessarily be used during and in its construction. At present, however, the necessary funds do not seem to be forth coming with that rapidity its sanguine promoters expected. Many of your readers will be acquainted with the old-established timber yard of the late firm of Messrs. Thomas Bryde and Son, of Grenville Street, in this city, which we see is to be sold by tender, including the and goodwill. It has been carried on for about three-quarters of a century, and is well known in the North and Midland districts for its high reputation in wainscot, mahogany, and other furniture goods.

LONDON.

The Times Trade Journal of Jan. 30th says, The gathering at Messrs. Churchill & Sims' sale on Wednesday last was one of the largest that we have seen this year, the regular London trade being augmented by a good sprinkling of country buyers, who, however, by the few provincial names that we recognise opposite the prices, came with the expectation of getting what they wanted at much lower prices than actually ruled. Not that prices took a high range; on the contrary they were on the same depressed scale to which we have so long become accustomed, and which the news of transfer of power from the Royal Commission on Trade to the party pledged to internal reforms is hardly likely to assist. The chief attraction on the first day was the Quebec pine, and the red descriptions, ex Persia we consider sold remarkably well. The yellow pine was not particularly choice, and the 2nd bright 2in., ex Suffolk we reckon realized fully what they were worth. The 1st boards ex Florida, a transhipment at £28 15s. and £29, we cannot find much fault with on the score of value, though the current price for similar description direct from Quebec to the docks stands at £32 10s. which holders experience no difficulty in obtaining. It makes all the difference whether goods of this high class have been picked over or not. The parcel in the West India Docks, ex Kalliope 13 ft. best regulars, for rather fresh goods of this kind 1sts are now realising £28, and 2nds £19; so that the sale-buyer after all has very little pull.

Timber sold rather low; the square pine logs 33 ft. long and upwards being knocked down to one buyer at 76s. per load is not so bad considering the slackness of the demand and the quantities in the dock ponds. Wancy also was cheap at 35s. to 37s 6d. Ash and elm prices also harmonise with the dull state of trade, and show no recovery.

Uleaborg goods are generally well represented in Messrs Churchill & Sims' sales, but on Wednesday the parcels offered were almost entirely batten sizes. Lathwood seems to rally, and most of the lots submitted reached £5 5s.

Flooring was active, inch being particularly so, but the recorded prices do not show much beneficial result, let Christiania yellow 1½ fall.

ing at 9s 6d., and 3rd Soderham red at 7s. 3d., while a lot of Sundwall of this quality, J.A.E. mark fetched only 6s. 6d. There are plenty of bidders at a price; you see a crowded room and an apparent anxiety to secure what is offered, but if you happen to ask an acquaintance why he stopped short at a low figure when another 3d. would have to secure the goods—the invariably answer is, "Let them go; I don't want them." They attend to buy in the hopes of getting something they may have a call for much under value, not because they are short of the stock they bid for. All are not like this but that undoubtedly is the position of the majority of the trade.

Thursday's sale fell very flat; there was nothing like the attendance of the previous day, and the bidding lacked spirit throughout. Perhaps when the flooring was submitted there was a little more life imparted to the sale, but prices ruled low throughout. There was the same readiness to secure the lots going but only at a low limit, which bidders very seldom exceed. It was plain that the bidding was not stimulated by any actual want of the stuff, and had no backbone in it.

GLASGOW.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of Jan., 30th, says:—A cargo of teak timber at Greenock is the principal arrival we have to note for the week; other wood imports consisting of small parcels of staves &c., at Glasgow per steamers. Two auction sales have taken place, one of log timber, chiefly at Greenock, and the other at Glasgow, the goods offered consisted of deals, and also included some Yeemouth birch timber for which, however, there were no bidding.

Notes of prices is appended ; a quiet demand was experienced at these sales, and of the goods offered only a small portion was sold.

For a number of the lots withdrawn their was bidding, which, however, did not come up to a figure acceptable to the brokers; there were some sales made afterwards privately.

The transactions publicly at the sale of deals here were chiefly Miramichi pine deals, the stock of which, as is well known, is comparatively low.

AUCTION SALES.

On 21st inst., at Greenock, Messrs. Allison
Cousland & Hamilton, brokers:—

	per c. ft.
Quebec waney boardwood	a. d.
53 cub. ft. av. per log	1 8
Quebec square boxwood (1st class)—	
49 cub. ft. av. per log	1 10
Quebec Yellow pine—	
61 b. ft. av. per log	1 3½
593 ft.	1 1½
Quebec red pine—	
35 cub. ft. av. per log	1 0½
31½ " "	1 0½
Quebec ash—	
31 cub. ft. av. per log	1
Hewn pitch pine—	
17 logs 1,552 ft.	1 ½
Quebec 1st yellow pine deals—	
11 to 23 ft. 7/16x3	2 0
Quebec 1st yellow pine deal ends—	
7 & 3 ft. 7/19x3	2 4
Quebec 1st yellow pine deals—	
6 ft. 7/13x3	2 2
5 ft. 7/20x3	2 3½
Quebec 4th yellow pine deal ends—	
4 to 8 ft. 7/19x3	0 1½

On 27th inst., at Glasgow, Messrs. Humber, She
& Co., brokers :-

		Per
Michigan 1st pine deals—		a.
14 ft.	14/16x3	3
Miramichi, N. B., pine deals—		
14 to 24 ft.	11x3	0 15
12 & 13 "	11x3	0 11 1/2
10 " 11 "	11x3	0 11
10 to 24 ft.	10x3	0 10 1/2
12 & 13 "	9x3	0
10 " 11 "	9x3	0 10
10 to 24 "	8x3	0
15 " 26 "	7x3	0
13 " 14 "	7x3	0
12 "	7x3	0
10 " 11 "	7x3	0
Miramichi spruce deals—		
13 " 24 ft.	11x3	0 10
St. John, N. B., spruce deals—		
19 ft.	11x3	0 10 1/2
12 "	9x3	0 9 1/2
9 to 10 "	9x3	0 9 1/2
Weymouth hemlock deals—		
10 to 17 ft.	10x3	0 7 1/2