

on this side, a hand-to-mouth policy has been pursued to an extent that with any revival of business will come an increased demand for nearly all grades of lumber.

HARDWOODS.

It is when a contrast is made with hardwood conditions of a year ago that one sees more clearly that trade has improved this year. It would be nonsense to talk about transactions of any great moment within the past week or two, but a survey of the hardwood field shows that trade is recovering from the depression that was its main characteristic throughout 1894. In Ontario, hardwoods will come into use more extensively in the future than has been the case in the past, and the local demand, there is reason to suppose, will be increased. A study of the eastern markets of the United States, where Canadian hardwoods go, point plainly to improvement. No one has any large stocks on hand and the factories in the States are now commencing to start up on a larger and apparently more steady scale. Enquiries are increasing, and during the next few months, if no shadow comes over the view, the output ought to represent a considerable figure. Prices are hardly improving as much as might be expected with a difference of \$2.00 saved by the duty, but they are not on the decline and there is less cutting among dealers than formerly, which is a hopeful augury.

SHINGLES.

Speaking specially of red cedar shingles there are reasons to believe that prices are stiffening, especially in certain brands. Ordinarily this would be a trifling fact to note, but when one considers the disorganized and thoroughly demoralized condition of the red cedar shingle market for a year and more past, it means a start in a direction that ought eventually to bring back the shingle business to something like a normal condition. To shingle manufacturers in British Columbia this is cheery news. There are still all the white pine shingles on the market that are required for present needs, but if the policy which is intimated as the one likely to be pursued this year is strictly followed out, that of curtailing the manufacture of shingles, the shingle market will be helped back to better conditions.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

Lumber exports from Vancouver, B. C., for quarter ending Dec. 31st., were valued at \$18,182.

Robt. Mills has a contract to put in 500,000 feet of spruce lumber for J. H. Lynch & Sons, Markhamville, N. B.

B. A. Scott, of Lake St. John, is making 100,000 logs on the Peribonca river limits this winter and 60,000 railway sleepers.

Two cargoes with 500,000 feet of long lumber from St. John, N. B., cleared for United States ports during the week, and also a cargo of 500,000 for Montivideo.

The Beulah has cleared the customs house at New Westminster, B. C., for California, with a cargo consisting of 333,000 feet of fir lumber and 28,800 laths, the whole valued at \$4,063.55.

The barque Cadzow Forest is ready for sea at Vancouver, B. C. She has on board 7,191,145 feet of lumber, 170,600 laths, and 8,200 pickets valued at \$6,926. Her destination is Melbourne, Australia.

The ship Vanduardo has left St. John, N. B., for Liverpool, Eng., with a load of lumber consisting of 659,274 deals and battens, 54,839 ends, 325 tons pine timber, 500 birch do. W. M. Mackay is shipper.

A syndicate consisting of Henry Monroe, J. A. Dodge, M. H. Welton and others, of Kingston, N. S., has been organized, and they are getting out between 300,000 and 400,000 logs from a belt of pine near that village.

The barque C. C. Funk has sailed from the Brunette mills, New Westminster, B. C., having on board 581,647 feet of fir lumber and 150,000 laths, valued at \$4,259.02. The vessel is bound for San Pedro, California. The Brunette mills have also shipped four car loads east.

C. N. Pitt, manager of Collin's Inlet Lumber Co., Collin's Inlet, Ont., says they have shipped most of their last year's cut, less than a million feet remaining. They have a full cut for their mill next season. There is one large camp at Beaverton, taking out pulp wood. There is barely enough snow for sleighing, but they are hauling at all the camps.

UNITED STATES.

The better grades of pine lumber at Saginaw, Mich., are in limited supply.

Avery & Richardson, of Saginaw, Mich., are putting in 3,000,000 feet of logs near Duluth.

Spruce is not active at the Boston market, quotations for frames ranging at from \$13.25 to \$13.75.

In the Minneapolis market the bulk of hardwood lumber selling is red oak, with a considerable demand for basswood.

A. P. Brewer & Sons, of Saginaw, Mich., are putting in about 20,000,000 feet of logs on the south shore of Lake Superior.

An order for telegraph poles from Buenos Ayres, S. A., is being filled by W. C. Sterling & Sons, cedar dealers at Monroe, Mich.

Maxfield & Payor, shingle manufacturers at Tumwater, Wash., have received an order for 250,000 shingles to be shipped to Honolulu.

C. H. Bradley, of Duluth, Minn., has sold 1,700,000 feet of lumber to be sent to Dollarville, Mich., there to be planed and graded and sent to his Boston yards.

Coarse lumber at Saginaw, Mich., is selling at \$13. to \$15.; log run, \$14. to \$18.; box, \$10. to \$10.50. Shingles: clear butts, \$1.35 to \$1.40, and No. 1 shingles, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

In the New York market a recent opinion says that prices for white pine this year will be no worse than last year, with an expected improvement, if the demand is anyways liberal.

Spruce in New York is not looking so well the past week; narrow stuff sold as low as \$14. and considerable wide was disposed of at \$15.50 to \$15.75. The arrival of 10,000,000 lath brought down prices to \$1.90.

A Chicago firm is sending out circular letters to the mill men, and dealers of Tacoma, Wash., asking how many cars of five to two clears in shingles each they can or will ship during February at \$2.10 f. o. b. Chicago, which would net the Tacoma trade \$1.02 f. o. b. at their mill.

Farmers in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Mich., are marketing what hardwoods are

found on their lands, and the current prices are: oak, \$12. to \$20.; maple, \$8. to \$10.; basswood, \$10. to \$10.50; cherry, \$15. to \$20.; ash, \$10.; elm, \$8.; white-wood, \$14.; sycamore, \$10.; walnut \$15. to \$20.

Hardwood under its Buffalo review of current conditions says that "basswood and plain red oak will be wanted for early spring trade, as the supply of neither is large at mill points, contributory to that market. Maple, both hard and soft, and soft elm are very slack, Canadian mills holding large quantities, which can be got cheaper than in eastern states, and even Pennsylvania. Have a good stock of birch, but want it all and are buying more as well as all the good quartered white oak that is offered." The same authority says, that furniture men of Pennsylvania are taking quartered white oak, cherry and birch in considerable amounts, while the former is in steady demand for finishing trade. Birch is also wanted somewhat for finishing, as is sycamore. Plain red oak sells fairly well, but the price is rather low. Quartered white oak and birch, both have an upward tendency, in fact the former is worth nearly, if not quite, \$2.00 more than during the summer. Cherry is firm but rather slow selling, like walnut. The price is getting too high for it to be used as commonly as it was a few years ago.

THE SITUATION.

REFLECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OF "WEEKLY LUMBERMAN."

W. R. Thompson, Teeswater, Ont: Trade is quiet, and no sales of any special account have been made within the past week or so. My impression is that stocks in this district are large. Prices are disposed to advance.

Eastman Lumber Co., Eastman, Que: No large movement of stocks, hemlock and matched spruce in most demand for United States markets. Lumber stocks in this locality are not large. Prices hold firm. We are expecting a good demand for lumber in the spring.

Geo. Thompson, Wingham, Ont: So far as lumber of any kind is in demand in this district, hemlock has the lead. Cannot, however, report any sales of importance recently made. Very little hardwood is being taken out in this district this winter. Of the future, I think lumber will be all right.

W. A. Monroe, Iroquois, Ont: Cannot report any activity in stocks. There is really no movement of any account. Stocks in most demand with us are pine and spruce, though no particular sales are to be reported. Stocks of lumber for sale in this locality are light. The tendency of prices is to decline, rather than advance.

W. O. Vansickle, Barrie, Ont: There is no immediate activity in business. Stocks are not moving actively, nor are there any enquiries worth naming for any class of lumber. My impression is, that we will have a quiet season. Prices are barely holding their own. Building prospects in this district are small.

L. G. Muller, New York: A plain "No" is the answer to your enquiry, are stocks moving actively? Buyers are very cautious and I cannot say that any particular class of lumber is in special demand just now. Stocks in this district

are very low. Prices in some lines are firm and in others very unstable. From the number of plans filed in the building department of this city business ought to improve in the spring.

Robert Christie, Chesley, Ont: Elm and maple are sluggish. On the other hand basswood, ash and birch are in demand, but stocks are exhausted. The Hanover Furniture Company have purchased a large stock of soft elm, which is the only sale of importance recently made in this district. Fair stocks of soft elm and rock elm are held here. Will be light cut this season. Prices are weak.

Shortreed Bros., Hillsdale, Ont: Trade is very slow at present. Basswood and hemlock are in most demand with us at present time. We have very little pine here. Some sales made recently of hemlock in car lots at \$6.50. Sold 500,000 ft. hemlock in October last at \$6.50, which we are shipping. We are running our mill at Hillsdale all winter on hemlock, elm, basswood and birch.

J. E. Murphy, Hepworth, Ont: My business is mainly in hardwoods, and in these lines stocks are slow. So far as there is any call, the greater demand at the present time is for thick maple, birch, basswood, ash and hemlock. I cannot say that any sales of importance have been made lately. My impression is that stocks in this locality are large, and speaking generally that hemlock preponderates, and hardwoods of medium quality. Hemlock is firm at last year's prices. Hardwoods are weak.

W. J. Sheppard, manager of Georgian Bay Lumber Co., Waubaushene, Ont: Stocks are moving only moderately and the chief demand at the present time is for the better grades of lumber. No sales of particular moment can be reported for the week, but there are more men out looking for lumber than usual this season. In this immediate locality stocks are not up to the average. Common and culls are quite scarce. Prices remain firm and will likely advance when trade opens in the spring.

SHIPPING MATTERS.

Freights at Boston are quoted at \$5.75 and from the Gulf at \$4.75.

The new schooner Queen City, is at the Hastings Mills, Vancouver, B. C., loading lumber for Japan.

The British barque Carmony, 1256 tons, which is now discharging general cargo at Victoria, B. C., has been chartered to load lumber at the Hastings Mills, Vancouver, B. C., for England.

Freights at St. John, N. B., are ruling low for the season, there being little demand for vessels to carry to American ports at present. A schooner has just been fixed to load piling for New York at 2 1/2c.

BUSINESS DIFFICULTIES AND CHANGES.

The planing mill firm of Walkam, Duha & Fischer, of Buffalo, N. Y., has dissolved; John Walkam retiring.

Cowper & Gregory, lumber forwarders of Tonawanda, N. Y., have dissolved, W. R. Gregory retiring and his place is taken by Mr. Cowper.

Plumsteel & Jordon is a new lumber firm, located at Tonawanda, N. Y. They will handle pine and hardwood, making a speciality of hardwood flooring.

Harvey Morris, of Wallaceburg, Ont., a large manufacturer of cooperage stocks, has assigned. His liabilities are \$40,000 and the chief creditor is the Bank of Montreal, to whom he owes about \$30,000.