

GREAT BRITAIN.

The lumber demand in Great Britain, if anything, shows some improvement, although the market cannot be called active. Wet weather has restricted the consumption. Shippers show no disposition to lower their asking prices, but on the other hand, in view of the probability of a shortage in the Canadian supply, are disposed to raise their quotations. Sentiment of importers is gradually changing to the view taken by shippers, namely, that the cost of production will not permit of selling lumber at lower prices. Large quantities of whitewood recently reached the London market and somewhat upset prices of spruce, but the condition is again normal and no further depression is anticipated in the near future. One of the largest importers points out that there is plenty of room in London for moderate supplies of whitewood in addition to all the spruce which is likely to reach that market. Pine deals from the St. Lawrence are going steadily into consumption. Birch timber is in fair demand, although prices are inclined to be easier. The volume of trade in birch planks is steadily increasing. Recent sales have been at 11d to one shilling per cubic foot. First-class rock elm timber is very scarce, but the stock of second-class and soft elm is rather large.

The stock of white pine deals and batens in the public docks at London is 588,000 pieces, as compared with 690,000 pieces at corresponding date last year. Spruce makes even a better showing, the stock being 536,000 pieces, against 844,000 pieces in 1902.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The steamer Obi is loading a cargo of deals at Montreal for the United Kingdom.

Hemlock is being delivered in Chicago at \$14 to \$14.50 for No. 1 piece stuff.

The steamer Nordkap cleared last week from St. John, N.B., for London, with deals.

The Steamer Janeto sailed last week from Montreal for Greenock with timber, calling at Quebec to complete cargo.

Alex. Watson reports that a drive of logs in which he is interested is hung up on the St. John river in New Brunswick.

A raft of 30,000 ties reached Warton, Ont., on June 27th. This is said to be the largest number ever taken to Warton by one tug.

The strike of the employees of the sash and door manufacturers of Montreal has been settled, after an idleness of nine weeks.

The Alex. Gibson Railway & Manufacturing Company, of Marysville, N. B., have 4,000,000 feet of logs hung up on the Nashwaak river.

The drive of logs on the Eel river, taken out by S. C. Wiggins, of Woodstock, N.B., is hung up. He has about 400,000 feet of cedar and spruce only a few miles from the mill.

The schooners Margaret May Riley and Helen Shafner are loading lumber at Annapolis, N. S., for the West Indies, and the barque Athena is taking on a cargo there for Buenos Ayres.

B. J. Gilligan, of Mattawa, Ont., is just getting out with his drive of 9,000,000 feet of logs, which were taken out for the Hull Lumber Company last winter. They were drawn on to Pontain Creek, which he has just got clear of.

Bay City parties are reported to have bought 10,000,000 feet of pine lumber from the Ontario Lumber Company, of French River, Ont., at an average of \$1 per thousand over the price obtained for the same grade of stock last year.

In Chicago No. 1 white pine lath are quoted at \$3.50, No. 1 mixed and No. 1 hemlock at \$3 to \$3.15, and No. 2 at \$2.75. In the Saginaw Valley No. 1 lath are held at \$3.50 for pine and \$3.20 for hemlock. Pine shingles are offered at \$4.25 and \$3.25.

There is an improved demand for slack cooperage stock and a decided scarcity in everything but hoops. Jobbers at Buffalo quote in carlots as follows: First-class elm four barrel staves, \$9.25 to \$9.50; mill run fruit barrels, \$7.25 to \$7.50; second-class, \$5.50 to \$5.75; basswood heading, 6 1/2 to 6 3/4 cents for first-class and 4 1/2 to 4 3/4 cents for second-class; coiled hoops, \$9.50 to \$9.75 for 5 1/2 foot and \$10 to \$10.25 for 6 foot; hickory hoops, \$6.50 to \$6.75.

Concerning the Minneapolis lumber market the American Lumberman says: "The market is in a satisfactory state; the stringency in stocks is now overcome and the trade is somewhat lighter. Conditions are only what is expected at this time. The general situation is good and crop prospects warrant belief in a good fall trade. The advance in hemlock dimension is maintained and white pine dimension promise to be as scarce as ever. From all reports the mills continue to slight dimension, which should command the present list prices without any trouble."

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN)

Inquiry made to-day in local lumber offices fails to show any changes in Ottawa district lumber prices since last letter, so that present quotations stand. There has been comparatively little change in business. Dealers still profess an inability to secure stocks at prices that will insure them a return on their money. The unsettled state of the New York lumber market continues to give local dealers cause for vexation on account of the delay in shipments that is caused. A couple of times a settlement of the labor difficulties in Gotham has been reported, but the pot still seems to be boiling.

Around the mills all is activity, and with a good supply of logs laid over from last season's drives the saws are piling up lots of lumber. The first of the pine will not be ready for market before the first of August. While a scarcity of labor is reported at some of the mills, there have been no strikes since the Hawkesbury affair in April.

Reports show that the log drives are moving freely in all directions. They were kept on the go during the long drought, and the recent constant rains have helped them out towards the main

streams. It is now practically assured that the big end of the log cut of 1902-1903 will reach the mills this season. This being the case, there should be no let up in sawing operations on account of shortage in log supply. The first of the cut of logs of the season 1902-1903 have already arrived at the mills. Rafts have been received at their mills by the W. C. Edwards Company, the Hawkesbury Lumber Company and Mr. J. R. Booth.

On the Petawawa river alone Mr. J. R. Booth has fully 50,000 logs. The Hawkesbury Lumber Company's drive off the Dumoine came out into the main stream last week. Other firms are doing equally well, noticeably the MacLarena, of Buckingham, who have everything well in hand on the Lievre.

The square timber is behaving itself nicely, in fact the first rafts have already reached Ottawa, but this was taken off one of the Gillies limits convenient to the main stream. Reports show that the other square timber rafts not being handled over the C. P. Railway are many miles distant from the Capital. However, taking all in all, natural conditions could not be very much better, and the lumbermen have nothing to complain of.

Already plans are being made for the work of 1903-1904. It is expected the men will be sent into the woods earlier this year than is usually the case, and it will be a matter of only a few weeks until the van guard is on the way. Conditions promise to be about the same as they were last year. The general prosperity will retain rages on a high plane.

An effort is being made by Mr. J. R. Booth and Hon. Senator Edwards to have the recent by-law prohibiting the piling of lumber in large quantities within the city limits rescinded. Application to the City Council to this effect has been made, but it is difficult to say what the outcome will be. It is pretty safe to say, however, that the mills will remain whether the piles go or stay. The by-law, in all probability, will be modified.

Mr. W. H. McAuliffe, lumber dealer, of Ottawa, has purchased all the present season's cut of spruce at McLachlan Bros. mill at Arnprior and the St. Anthony Lumber Company's mill at Whitney. Spruce is a more rapid drier than pine, and Mr. McAuliffe's stock will be ready to ship at any time now. Mr. McAuliffe's new planing mill is well advanced. The roof is being placed in position, and the mill will be running in about a month.

Mr. Charles Desmarais, Hull, Que., took out a large stock of poles this season. He has 1,500 on hand 25 feet and upward in length, 7 inch top. These are piled along the Gatineau and Pontiac lines ready for prompt shipment.

An old lumberman to-day furnished some figures which will show the wonderful advances there have been in the past half century in the price of white pine square timber. It is selling now at the port of Quebec at 65 cents a cubic foot, whereas it went begging for purchasers, practically, five years ago at 40 cents a cubic foot. The advance in the past five years has been almost four times as great as was the advance in the previous thirty

years, for in 1869 white pine was quoted at Quebec at 33 cents a foot. This leaves an advance of 7 cents between 1869 and 1898, as against an advance of 25 cents between 1898 and 1903. Decrease in production rather than increase in demand is probably the reason for this strong advance in square timber. This year not one raft will pass down to Quebec, where there were ten a few years ago. It is getting more difficult, as the years pass by, and the cutting increases, to secure Canadian white pine suitable for decking.

Late reports, contrary to general expectations, show that forest fires during the recent long drought played havoc on standing timber on some of the Ontario limits. In the vicinity of Des Joachims, in the Black river section of the Upper Ottawa country standing timber equivalent to fully 500,000 logs was burned through. This was on one of Mr. J. R. Booth's limits. Several keep-overs, holding large stores of supplies, were also destroyed. It is expected that part of the standing timber that was scorched can be saved, providing it is felled before the worms get in their insidious work.

Mr. Wm. Hutcheson, ex M.P., Canadian Commissioner to the Exposition held at Osaka, Japan, states that the British Columbia, or Douglas fir, as it is commonly called, is received in great favor in the Orient and in Manila. Experiments made on Government contracts in Manila have shown that the Douglas fir is the only wood which will stand weather and insect ravages. For this reason it has been selected, although disguised under the name of Oregon fir.

(OTTAWA, June 26th, 1903.)

The following charters are reported: Barque Massa-e-Gueco, Chatham, N. B., to Buenos Ayres, lumber, \$8; barque Niagara, Pictou, N. S., to Swansea, deals, 40s; str. Davenport, St. John, N. B., to W. C. England, deals, 36s 3d.

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