

Canadian lumber this year was good, and the prospects are, he declares, "very encouraging," though the square timber market has been dull. A needed caution finds place in his speech, to the effect that makers of timber do not again flood the market with larger quantities than the demand warrants.

Reference is made to the improvements at head office, to the purchase of a lot and the erection of a building for a banking office in Winnipeg, to the new office at Pembroke and Hawkesbury, and to the opening of branches at Parry Sound and in Rideau street, Ottawa.

The net profits of the bank for the year were \$191,712, almost 13 per cent. upon the capital, out of which, and the 1892 balance, seven per cent. dividend was paid, \$20,000 carried to Officers' Guarantee Account, and \$75,000 added to Reserve. This last account is also swelled by \$60,987 premium on new stock, and stands at \$843,536. Deposits are increased to \$4,090,000, of which \$651,000 is without interest. Circulation at date of statement stood at \$1,129,000. Of the assets, those readily available appear at \$1,594,000; current loans at \$6,159,000, and the total shows the handsome figure of \$7,928,226. The report and statement of affairs met, as it deserved, the approval of the meeting. The directors were re-elected. Mr. Charles Magee and Mr. Robert Blackburn were again chosen president and vice-president respectively.

CASH TRADE GROWING.

Messrs. E. Berwick & Co., general merchants and grain dealers at Shelburne, in Dufferin county, about mid-way between Owen Sound and Toronto, write to us an entertaining letter about the Patron stores thereabout and their mode of doing business. We quote: "The fine autumn spoken of in your good-natured postal card reminder of Nov. 21st has given place with us to old-fashioned winter, but the good roads are still with us, though changed to snow. Whether this is the reason for the good business we are having, we cannot say, but we certainly have no reason to complain of dull times. The month of November was our 'best on record,' and December bids fair to surpass all previous Decembers. This in spite of the fact that there are two 'Patron' general stores in opposition to us here, both professing to sell anything and everything at 15 per cent. advance on invoice price, with the exception of sugar, factory cotton, and several other staple lines, which they sell at cost! It is a little strange under the circumstances that we should be able to do any business at all, but we manage to worry along nevertheless. We don't mind admitting to you in strict confidence that we don't sell 'at cost' either. A very pleasing feature of our trade this season, too, you will be glad to know, is the large proportion of cash business we are getting; perhaps we may thank our Patron friends for this change."

FROM GREECE.

Mail advices from Patras, dated December 2nd, say that the currant market of Greece has shown a slight improvement, and prices of the lower qualities have advanced fully 6d. to 1s. per cwt. This, to a large extent, is due to the action of Coast growers, who, having seen that their fruit, when sent to the market for sale, "fetched scarcely half cultivation expenses," have abstained from sending any further supplies on their own account. This has forced shippers, who have considerable requirements for November and December

shipments, to purchase on the Coast direct, and as a consequence growers have been able to take up a stronger position.

Although the weight of fruit remaining in the country is still very considerable, shippers do not look for any decline in present quotations. The Greek government, it would appear, has positively decided to take off the excise duty on spirit-making, and quantities of the lower grade currants will be distilled. The government also has in hand a project for levying an export duty of 20 to 30 per cent. in kind as an additional duty on currants exported for eating purposes. This naturally gives encouragement to holders of fruit. Shipments to date are given at 97,808 tons; those of last year to December 2nd were 84,491 tons. Canada, however, up to the same date, had only received 1,079 tons, as compared with 1,328 tons in the same time last year.

LEMONS.

Trade in lemons is considerably curtailed by short supplies, many of the wholesale houses reporting that they have no stocks whatever on hand. The stock of the "Dora" was sold in New York on the 18th. Her cargo consisted in part of new Messina lemons, some of which showed decay, having been heated by shipments of dried fruit, which were also carried on the voyage. The fruit brought from \$3.75 to \$4.25. This sale has supplied the wants of New York and its immediate vicinity. On Wednesday the stock of the steamer "Guildhall," consisting of 32,000 boxes, will be sold. It is anticipated that enough orders are held in abeyance to keep the market quite as strong as at the Monday sale. Supplies are expected in Toronto on Friday (to-morrow), and it is thought that quotations will stand at from \$4.50 to 5.00 per box. In the meantime lemons are selling in a retail way at from 20 to 30c. per doz., according to the quality of the stock.

PETROLIA OIL SHIPMENTS.

At this season of the year new developments are not looked for. Crude and refined remain without material changes. The following are the shipments of crude and refined reduced to crude equivalent, over the two railways for the month of November, as compiled by the *Topic*, together with a comparison for the corresponding month of the two previous years:—

GRAND TRUNK.		
Crude.	Refined.	Equivalent.
21,860 bbls.	23,996 bbls.	81,850 bbls.
MICHIGAN CENTRAL.		
4,595 bbls.	15,770 bbls.	44,020 bbls.

The total equivalent is thus for the current year 125,870 barrels. That of last year for same period was 119,300 barrels, and in November, 1891, it was 86,320 barrels.

MIRAMICHI WOOD EXPORT.

The export of deals and other lumber from the Miramichi River, New Brunswick, has not been so great in the season of 1893 as in the previous season. The deal trade shows a decrease of more than eleven million feet, viz., from 91,907 523 superficial feet in 1892 to 83,391,307 this year. Taken as a whole, says the *Chatham Advance*, "the season's business has been disappointing. The deals wintering seem to be about the same quantity as last winter, but operations in the woods for the winter upon which we are entering are put down at fully one-third less than those of last season."

It is true that an increase is shown in the export of palings by some 220,000 pieces, or nearly ten per cent., and an increase of 202,000 pieces of spool wood is also chronicled.

But these are comparatively small items; the main fact remains, that against 134 vessels of 103,500 tons which carried deals across the Atlantic last year, there were this year only 111 vessels of 87,736 tons. We note that the American Spool and Bobbin Company, which last year shipped 1,109,000 pieces spool wood, does not appear to have shipped any this year. The trans-Atlantic shipments from Chatham for the year are thus given:

Shippers, 1893.	No. Vessels.	Tons.	S. F. Deals.
J. B. Snowball.....	36	25,169	22,081,347
W. M. McKay.....	21	18,621	18,084,380
F. E. Neale.....	11	12,847	13,519,604
D. & J. Ritchie & Co.	20	10,964	10,660,238
Wm. Richards.....	9	8,530	7,334,813
E. Hutchison.....	10	7,974	7,109,925
G. Barchill & Sons.	4	3,631	4,601,000
Total.....	111	87,736	83,391,307

Shippers, 1893.	No. Vessels.	Tons.	Pieces.
Clark, Skillings & Co.....	2	1,069	spool wood 793,083
J. W. Bennett..	1	739	" 503,439

A FIREMEN'S MEETING.

A gathering of interest was held in New York last week. This was the annual banquet of the Veteran Firemen's Association of the paid fire department of that city. To be a veteran one must have served twenty years in fire-fighting. The time chosen for the dinner was 9 o'clock, because fires are more frequent between 5 and 8 p.m. than during the rest of the twenty-four hours. That the choice was wise is shown by the sounding of several alarms after 5 o'clock. At the first fire Chief John Bresnan was badly choked by smoke, and at the other Chief Hugh Bonner was hit on the head by a falling shutter, and had to go to a druggist to have a gash near his right eye and abrasions on his face patched up. But both went to the dinner.

Ex-chief Charles O'Day presided. In the absence of the mayor, George B. McClellan responded for the city. In speaking to what seems to have been the toast of the evening, namely, "American and Foreign Fire Departments," Mr. Henry D. Purroy said:—

"After having familiarized myself with the various fire services of the principal cities of Europe and America, the whole subject of their respective merits, according to my mind, is narrowed down to two simple conclusions. First, that the American fire services generally are far superior to those of Europe; and, second, that there is no fire service in either Europe or America which, as to general efficiency, is the equal of that of the city of New York. That the fire services of the great European cities are inferior to those of the important towns of America, is due chiefly, in my opinion, to the fact that fire is a much less dangerous and less dreadful element of destruction in the one case than it is in the other, and that, as a natural consequence, greater promptness and superior skill and equipment become absolutely essential in order to successfully cope with the more pressing and more serious emergency.

"In other words, while every second lost in getting to a fire in New York city tells terribly against its speedy extinguishment, and while it is therefore necessary to use every method that ingenuity can suggest to lessen delay, both in sending out the alarm and responding thereto with the very strongest and the very best apparatus, yet, on the other hand, no large section of London has recently burned down,