

commence building operations early in the spring, and it is believed that the rush for lumber will result in at least a temporary advance, with a strong probability of a higher range of values continuing throughout the year. Dealers are looking towards British Columbia to supply a large proportion of the season's requirements, many new mills having recently been erected in that province.

UNITED STATES.

The market has shown greater activity. Dealers are looking for opportunities to buy lumber, and while there is some complaint that manufacturers have set their figures too high, there is reason to believe that dealers will have to meet them. The statement of production and stocks on hand, referred to elsewhere, shows that the supply of white pine at the close of last year was nearly 300,000,000 feet less than at the close of 1901. Hardwoods make a still more favorable showing, the stock at the northern mills being about 40 per cent. less than one year ago. These figures offer little ground on which to base the expectation of a decline in lumber prices. At Buffalo white and Norway pine is very firm. The box trade is in better position than at almost any other similar time, and an advance in the price of box lumber is looked for. At Cleveland there has been of late an unusually heavy demand for 6, 8, 10 and 12 inch No. 3 common boards, and on this grade prices have stiffened. The wholesale price is \$20 for 6, 8 and 10 inch, and \$22.50 for 12 inch. The quantity of lath in the yards in that city at the close of the year was found to be less than anticipated, resulting in very firm prices. No. 1 brings \$4.25 and No. 2 \$3.75.

The lumber that is now being purchased by retail dealers is largely for factory use, as building lumber has not yet commenced to move. While actual advances on hardwoods are not reported, dealers are in many instances selling above list quotations. Dealers have almost suspended efforts to locate any quantity of basswood, consequently the price is nominal. While the shingle trade is quiet, prices are firm, and dealers are picking up suitable lots wherever they can be found.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Board of Trade returns show that during the year 1902 the import of lumber into the United Kingdom was slightly larger than in the previous year, the figures being 6,676,726 loads and 6,281,000 loads respectively. From Canada the import was 1,639,668 loads in 1902 and 1,517,234 loads in 1901. The consumption was about equal to the import, as the quantity of stock on hand is nearly the same as one year ago. Representatives of Quebec shippers are canvassing in the usual channels for orders and have met with some success, although there seems to be a deep-seated conviction that shippers' prices are too high. Nevertheless, there is no pressure to sell and it is believed that buyers will yield. Prices for lumber in stock are unusually firm. At a recent auction sale several lots of Quebec fourth quality spruce, 3x9 inches wide and 12 feet long, brought £9 per standard, which is said to be the highest price ever obtained under the hammer for this quality. For winter shipments the c. i. f. price is about £7 10s. From another quarter comes the report that spruce deals and battens lying in the docks are selling at £10 5s for 3x9 second quality, £9 15s for 3x9 third

quality, and £8 for 3x7. The square timber trade is steady, with prices of birch logs advancing.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

D.L. Mather, of Keewatin, Ont., is taking out about 500,000 ties on Eagle Lake, New Ontario.

Ayton Cromwell, of Cookshire, Que., has taken a contract to cut 200,000 ships for railroads, to be 2 feet long, 6 inches wide and 3 inches thick.

Word has been received that the schooner Carrie Belle has been abandoned at sea. The schooner sailed from St. John, N.B., on January 8th for City Island, with a cargo of 283,543 feet of deals, shipped by Stetson, Cutler & Co.

H.J. Beemer, contractor for the Ottawa, Northern & Western Railway extension to Maniwaki, has been unable to secure sufficient ties from contractors, and has decided to open up a camp in the woods to take out 75,000 ties for the completion of his contract.

It is expected that the cut of logs on the Tobique River, in New Brunswick, this winter will be about 20,000,000 feet. Among the operators are the Tobique Manufacturing Company, Hilyard Bros., R.A. Estey, Donald Fraser & Sons, Senator Baird and A.J. Beveridge.

The Edward Hines Company, of Chicago, are reported to have sold 35,000,000 feet of lumber to the Mills-Gray Carleton Company, of Cleveland, Ohio. The stock is to be cut as Ashland. It is rumored that the Hines Company have completed another sale of 25,000,000 feet to Cleveland parties.

The Department of Railways for the Transvaal and Orange River Colony is calling for tenders for the supply of 250,000 deals, 50,000 cubic feet of baulks and scantlings, 5,000,000 lineal feet of siding and flooring boards, 1,000,000 lineal feet of skirting, moulding, etc., 9,500 doors, 4,900 windows and 1,750 mantles. The time for the receipt of tenders was January 7th, but the Canadian Commissioner writes that the date will likely be postponed long enough to permit of Canadian firms tendering, if they desire.

Under date of January 3rd Messrs. S.P. Musson, Son & Company say of the Barbados market: "The only arrival of white pine to note since our last is the 'Olinda' from Halifax, N.S., with 140,000 feet to our address, also a small lot of hemlock. This cargo we placed at Demerara on C. F. terms. The market is in a fair position and white pine could be sold at about \$25 or over for shipping and \$20.50 for second quality. In spruce there has been no further receipts, but we understand another cargo has been placed for prompt shipment at about same rates as previously advised, and we have placed 100,000 feet of hemlock for future shipment on private terms. The lot of Laying shingles referred to in ours of 20th ultimo was sold at \$1.82."

THE GLASGOW MARKET.

In reviewing the timber trade of the Clyde, Messrs. Calder, Henderson & Livingston, Glasgow, say of Canadian timber:

WHITE PINE—WANKY.—There was a full import during the year with a fair demand, and although the stock carried over shows an increase as compared with this time last year, it is by no means too heavy. Prime wood has been in demand

and values have reached a high level. 19 to 20 inch string of long average has been selling from 3s 5d to 3s 9d; short girthly timber from 3s 1d to 3s 3d; second class, 2s 3d to 2s 9d per cubic foot. SQUARE.—There has been fair demand and what was imported has gone well into consumption. It leaves the stock very similar to last year. Quotations are at 2s 5d to 2s 10d for first-class 35 to 45 feet average; 21d to 2s 2d per c. ft. for good fair average.

RED PINE.—This has been imported more freely than for some years back, but it has gone well into consumption and stocks are moderate. Prime wood of large size only is in demand, and it has been selling at from 1s 10d to 2s 3d per c. ft.

ELM.—While the import has been an average it has consisted very largely of soft elm. Prime rock elm has been well taken up at prices ranging from 2s 9d to 3s 1d per c. ft. for 40 to 50 feet average. Soft elm is practically unsaleable and is quoted at from 18d to 2s per c. ft.

OAK.—There has been a heavy import and as the demand has only been an average one it leaves us with increased stocks. Prime wood 70 to 75 feet average is quoted at 3s 6d to 3s 9d, and second-class from 2s to 2s 8d per c. ft.

ASH.—The import has been much too heavy. When the decreased demand is taken into account, stocks show a material increase. Some parcels have been cleared at very low figures, but current quotations are at 20d to 2s per c. ft. for 14 to 15 inch average.

BIRCH.—The import has been small. Stocks have been reduced and prices are very firm at 20d to 22d per c. ft. for 16 inch average. A noticeable feature this year has been the import of planks, but the business has been overdone, and prices have gone to a low figure. They are quoted at from £9 to £11 per St. Petersburg standard.

DEALS, BATTENS AND BOARDS.—The opening of the year found us with a very low stock of deals of all qualities, and while this had the effect of forcing the merchants to contract for early shipment it had also the effect of making business very free when the Canadian season opened. A good tone has been noticeable throughout the season with a gradual improvement on values, particularly in the higher qualities. PINE—FIRSTS.—The import has never been able to keep pace with the demand, and prices are firm. Quotations are as follows: Broad deals, £28 17s 6d to £35 according to quality and average width: 11 inch, £26 15s to £28 17s 6d. Undersizes, £20 12s 6d to £23 10s. Good sidings, 1½, 1¾ and 2 inch of 10 to 11 inch average width, £24 to £26 15s. Strips, 4 to 7 inch wide, £19 to £21 5s per St. Petersburg standard.

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Second's.—The quantity of these that has gone to consumption this year has been much above the average, the demand being stimulated by the scarcity of first quality. Broad deals are low in stock and are quoted at £20 12s 6d to £21 10s; 11 inch at £18 10s to £20; undersizes at £13 15s to £15 10s per St. Petersburg standard. Thirds.—A good business has been done, but prices show very little advance. 11 inch were quoted throughout the year at from £12 3d to £12 15s; undersizes, at £10 10d to £11 10s per St. Petersburg standard. Fourths.—There has been a fair demand for 11 inch and wider, but narrow deals are slow of sale. Quotations are at £9 5s to £10 for 11 inch and wider; £8 5s to £9 for undersizes.

RED PINE.—The stock has been greatly reduced, but is still ample. Values are inclined to improve and quotations are at £9 5s to £12 10s per St. Petersburg standard, according to quality and specification.

CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

From St. John, N.B.: Str. Lake Ontario, for Liverpool, 11,029 ft. spruce deals, 444 ft. scantling, 574 ft. ends, 19,949 ft. birch plank, 3,550 ft. birch ends, by W. M. Mackay; 631 bundles flooring, by Troop & Son. Barque Hornet, for Santa Cruz, 133,945 ft. pine boards, 20,489 ft. scantling, 48,187 ft. plank, 34,127 ft. spruce boards, 4,389 ft. spruce plank, 81,220 ft. spruce scantling, 207,100 laths, 13,400 pickets, by A. Cushing & Co. Schr. Quetay, for Bermuda, 500,000 spruce laths, by F. Tufts. Str. Lake Erie, for Liverpool, 210,930 ft. deals, 4,996 ft. scantling, 45,902 ft. ends, 12,522 ft. boards, 174,532 ft. birch plank, 27,193 ft. birch ends, 386 tons birch timber, by W. M. Mackay; 5,246 bundles shooks, 44,000 ft. oak plank, 123,000 ft. birch squares, by Troop & Son. Str. Tunisian, for Liverpool, 458,622 ft. deals, 29,670 ft. scantling, 49,022 ft. ends, by W. M. Mackay; 228 packages chair stock, by William Thomson & Co. Schr. Adeline, for New Haven, 31,700 ft. deals, 72,282 ft. plank, 30,413 ft. scantling, 43,350 ft. pine boards, 40,793 ft. pine ends, 95,000 spruce laths, by Stetson, Cutler & Co.

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