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THE LUMBER AND TIMBER TRADE.

Messrs. J. Bell Forsyth & Co.'s annual trade circular is, says the *Quebec Chronicle*, very interesting to our commercial public. The figures presented deal, in an exhaustive manner, with the annual returns of manufacture, export and stock wintering, together with comparative statements, prices current, etc., etc. The arrivals of ocean steamships, during the year 1884, were 240, representing a tonnage of 427,834 tons. This marks a decrease of 29 steamships as compared with the list of arrivals in the previous year. Of sailing vessels from sea we had in 1884, 499 craft, with tonnage of 380,147, as compared with 627 vessels, 504,962 tons, last year. These figures indicate that the timber and deal trade of this port for the past season has been much more limited in volume than usual. A great falling off is also noted both in supply and export. The number of sailing vessels which cleared at the port of Quebec for sea, lumber laden, from the opening to the close of navigation, in 1884 was 366, tonnage 291,398. In 1883 the returns gave 487 vessels, tonnage 416,169.

"With this greatly reduced export," says the circular, "we might naturally look for more encouraging accounts from the principal markets in Great Britain to which our products are conveyed; but as yet we can discern no improvement, trade there is depressed, no revival has taken place in shipbuilding, which industry absorbs so much Canadian timber, and the imports of wood goods from other quarters have been more than sufficient for all requirements." It is gratifying to learn that the trade between Canada and South America is increasing. The shipments in 1884 amounted to about 37 million feet board measure from the St. Lawrence.

The table of prices current in Messrs. Forsyth's circular is based on actual sales. We print the statistics below, as they are likely to prove of interest to our merchants and others that are interested in the lumber and timber business:

	\$	cts.	\$	cts.
White pine, in the raft, for inferior and ordinary, according to average, quality, &c., measured off.....	0	15	@	0 18
For fair average quality, according to average, quality, &c., measured off..	0	18	@	0 22
For good and good fair average, according to average, quality, &c., measured off.....	0	22	@	0 25
For superior, according to average, quality, &c., measured off.....	0	25	@	0 29
In shipping order, according to average, quality, etc.....	0	20	@	0 38
Waney board, 18 to 19 inch, according to average, quality, &c.....	0	32	@	0 54
Waney board, 19 to 21 inch, according to average, quality, etc.....	0	34	@	0 37
Red pine, in the raft, measured off, according to average and quality....	0	12	@	0 18
In shipping order, 33 to 45 feet, accord-				

ing to average and quality.....	0	16	@	0 22
Oak, Canada, by the dram, according to average and quality.....	0	40	@	0 45
Michigan and Ohio, by the dram, according to average and quality....	0	46	@	0 40
Elm, by the dram, according to average and quality, 45 to 50 feet.....	0	34	@	0 35
Elm, by the dram, according to average and quality, 30 to 35 feet.....	0	28	@	0 30
Ash, 14 inches and up, according to average and quality.....	0	28	@	0 32
Birch, 16 inch average, according to average and quality.....	0	22	@	0 24
Tamarac, square, according to size and quality.....	0	12	@	0 16
Flatted, according to size and quality..	0	10	@	0 12
Staves, merchantable pipe, according to quality and specification.....	\$	305	@	\$ 320
W. O. Puncheon, merchantable, according to quality and specification.....	\$	75	@	\$ 80
Deals, bright, according to mill specification, \$115 to \$118 for 1st, \$75 to \$80 for 2nd and \$35 to \$37 for 3rd quality.				
Bright Michigan, according to mill specification, \$130 to \$140 for 1st, and \$90 to \$93 2nd quality.				
Light spruce, according to mill specification, \$33 to \$40 for 1st, \$22 to \$24 for 2nd and \$20 to \$22 3rd quality.				

Timber sold in the raft subjects the purchaser to great expense in dressing, butting, and at times heavy loss for culls—if sold in shipping order, the expense of shipping only is to be added.

These excerpts from the circular relating more particularly to the varieties of wood employed in commerce, are of general interest to the public:—

WHITE PINE—Waney board.—The supply has been light, and generally speaking of good quality, the shipments considerable, leaving a stock on hand slightly over the average of the past five years. The demand has been good all season and especially during the autumn, when it was found that large average and choice lots were not easily procurable, and our highest quotations were given for timber of this class. As to the quality on hand we should remark that a large percentage is composed of Ottawa wood, small in size and poor in quality, while the average and choice timber is scarce.

SQUARE—The quantity measured is unusually light, comprising as it does some rafts now wintering on the Ottawa; the shipments have been exceptionally small and the stock wintering rather over the average of past years. There has been considerable difficulty all season in placing square timber and transactions have been chiefly confined to those rafts containing a good proportion of first class wood. Apart from 12 to 14 rafts manufactured during the winter of 1883 and 1884 and which have been held back on the Ottawa, there will be but a small supply to come from that quarter next season, as the winter's production according to the last estimates will not exceed 1½ million feet altogether, including a proportion of waney

board. Quite sufficient, however, for all requirements likely to arise, and the manufacturers are acting very prudently in curtailing their operations to such an extent. Our present stock comprises the usual proportion of ordinary and inferior wood for which there is at the present period little or no demand.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884 { Square.....	3,707,159		
{ Waney.....	2,199,867		
1883 { Square.....	7,412,034		
{ Waney.....	3,786,623		
1884	6,047,680	{ 7,501,529 Square.	
		{ 2,399,001 Waney.	
1883	10,427,000	{ 7,780,620 Square.	
		{ 2,758,840 Waney.	

RED PINE—The supply though unusually light has been ample, the consumption in the home markets having greatly diminished of late years. Good timber has been in fair request and the stock now wintering includes a considerable quantity of small inferior wood. The production will be almost nil this winter.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884.....	327,735	614,280	1,012,426
1883.....	499,111	1,048,960	1,510,925

OAK—Both the supply and export have been exceedingly moderate, and the stock on hand unusually light. Prices have been well maintained although transactions have not been numerous. The quantity wintering at Garden Island, we learn, is heavier than last season. The present mild-weather and want of snow in the West, should it continue, will seriously curtail the production of Oak and other hardwoods this winter.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884.....	772,260	1,212,520	837,715
1883.....	1,916,322	2,132,880	1,203,347

ELM—The quantity measured although double that which arrived in 1883 is still under the average and about equal to the shipments, leaving a small stock for next spring. Standing timber is scarce and the manufacturer finds much difficulty in procuring choice wood. The production will not exceed that of last year from all accounts.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884.....	657,919	658,000	114,961
1883.....	309,531	739,920	87,424

ASH—The receipts have been in excess of past years, the export an average one, and the stock on hand almost sufficient for a season's shipments. Prices are easier than last year and this winter's productions will be small in consequence.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884....	451,984	360,080	339,358
1883.....	263,448	346,320	135,228

BIRCH—With a limited supply and fair shipment this wood has been in good request. The quantity wintering is light and the supply for next year likely to be a moderate one.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884.....	194,346	241,120	23,038
1883.....	132,621	233,040	6,629

STAVES—PIPE.—The few Mille (94 in all) culled must strike our readers as being alarmingly small, still these figures are correct. Twenty years ago the receipts 1817 Mille, an immense decrease in this once profitable branch of the Quebec trade! This supply appears to have been ample, as prices in Great Britain have ruled low. The stock wintering, though apparently light, is above the average of the past five years.

PUNCHEON—In 1864, 4,623 Mille were received against 261 in 1884, a decline in the same ratio as pipe. The export has been less than usual, the stock on hand moderate. We reduce our quotations for both pipe and puncheon from those of a year ago.

1884 { Pipe.....	94	183	379
{ Puncheon.....	261	700	474
1883 { Pipe.....	680	549	470
{ Puncheon.....	663	933	805

DEALS—PINE.—The demand has been chiefly for 1st and 2nd qualities which have been scarce, have ruled high and been in great request, especially choice lots from Michigan and elsewhere. There is a very considerable decline at this port both in the supply and export, while we find statements from Montreal and elsewhere showing a very decided increase in the year's shipments. We are aware that there are several causes at present influencing a portion of the deal trade to Montreal, but when we hear that owners of steamships refuse to charter their vessels to load at Quebec owing to certain bylaws of the Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society we think it only right to call attention to this matter of such grave importance to the ship laborer as well as to all others interested in the trade or welfare of this port. The total shipments from Montreal and Pierreville, as we learn from the circular of Messrs. Anderson, McKenzie & Co., amount to over two million (Quebec stand.) pine and spruce—a very great increase in the past two years.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884.....	2,247,240	2,442,946	847,653
1884.....	3,228,622	3,993,071	1,543,359

SPRUCE have not varied much in value, the low prices ruling in Great Britain leaving an insufficient margin for profit. The supply and export have been light and the stock wintering a moderate one. Owing to the present prospects the cut of logs will be greatly curtailed. First quality are scarce and in great request while we do not alter our quotations for 2nd and 3rd quality.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1884.....	2,222,537	2,636,465	838,817
1883.....	3,569,440	2,729,635	1,762,725

Freights opened at 20s. to 22s. timber, 50s. deals to Liverpool. 22s. to 23s. 3d. timber, 50s. deals to London. 17s. to 18s. 6d. timber, 50s.