

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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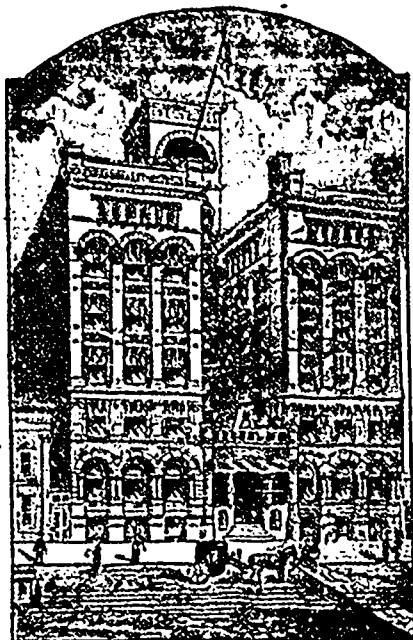
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OUR NEW QUARTERS.

The Offices of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN have been removed to the

CANADA LIFE BUILDING,
King Street, West, Toronto.

TO VISITING LUMBERMEN.

LUMBERMEN visiting Toronto are invited to use the office of the LUMBERMAN as their own. We shall take pleasure in supplying them with every convenience for receiving and answering their correspondence, and hold ourselves at their service in any other way that they may desire.

THE TIMBER TRADE OF QUEBEC.

Messrs J. Bell Forsyth & Co. Review the Timber Trade of the Past Twelve Months.

At the close of another season we beg to lay before you the usual trade returns comprising the supply, export and stock of timber, deals, &c., at this port, together with comparative statements, &c.

The arrivals of ocean steamers show a larger amount of tonnage than last year, while there is a falling off in the list of sailing vessels from sea, and a steady increase in the number of craft coming from the lower provinces. This statement compiled by Mr. F. Johnson shows that 250 vessels, 238,162 tons, cleared at this port laden with timber, deals, &c., against 275 vessels, 240,892 tons in 1889.

At the time of writing our annual circular a year ago, the markets in Great Britain were firm and consumption comparatively large, while many anticipated that the requirements for the coming year would exceed that of the past. In this market the prices of all woods had advanced and contracts were freely entered into with the manufacturers at the enhanced rates for this season's delivery. The high prices then current had the result of stimulating the manufacture especially of white pine, while unfortunately the demand fell far short of that had been reckoned on as the probable shipment. The result has been on the whole a heavier supply than usual, a very moderate export, and a wintering stock considerably over that of late years.

WHITE PINE.—From the opening of the season to the close there has been an utter absence of demand,

and a striking feature and one worth noticing is, that apart from some Ottawa timber delivered on contract, only four rafts changed hands throughout the entire season.

The supply of waney, as well as square, has been excessive; the export light and the stock wintering heavier than it has been since the year 1886. The usual quantity of good and choice timber is included in the supply which has come to market and been laid up in coves without any attempt being made to sell, so dull and depressed has our market been. In the face of such heavy stocks it would be well to state that no timber was being manufactured this winter, still we learn that the estimated quantity on the Ottawa is unprecedentedly small, while in the Georgian Bay, Michigan and elsewhere it will be exceedingly light. A very large proportion of the timber wintering is held on manufacturers account. The local requirements have not absorbed as much of the common and inferior wood as usual.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890 { Square	5,082,772		14,799,633 Square.
{ Waney	3,694,742	5,498,380	3,528,209 Waney.
1889 { Square	4,224,426		3,146,676 Square.
{ Waney	3,770,782	6,872,960	1,914,001 Waney.

RED PINE. The supply has been light, barely half of the previous year, while the stock wintering is above the present average, though far short of some years ago when this wood was in greater request, especially for the Irish markets. The manufacture this year will be almost nil.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890	324,702	355,520	612,918
1889	739,435	397,680	653,918

OAK.—The quantity measured shows a slight diminution with a considerable decline in shipments, and a larger wintering stock than in 1889. Prices have been fairly maintained during the season, and closed at firm rates; the impression prevailing that the production this winter will be light. The quantity remaining over at Garden Island is smaller than usual.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890	1,227,982	1,119,160	753,566
1889	1,359,660	1,538,080	596,399

E.L.M.—The demand has been sluggish, and while there is a falling off both in supply and shipments, the quantity now in the coves is almost double that of last year. The manufacture has, we believe, almost ceased for the present, the wintering stock being considered ample for next year's requirements.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890	611,582	530,260	459,501
1889	750,559	791,800	238,755

ASH—Has been in very limited request, while the stock wintering is extremely light. The figures received from the Customs as to the export are manifestly incorrect as regards both birch and ash.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890	142,450	15,280	99,383
1889	250,558	335,360	127,001

BIRCH—Has been dull of sale with a moderate enquiry at times for prime fresh wood. The export figures give a heavier shipment than has actually taken place.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890	224,652	493,740	13,752
1889	355,550	479,280	38,784

STAVES.—There is little to report in this branch of our trade, the receipt and shipment of staves having almost ceased at this port. Our quotations are nominal.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890 { Pipe	11	77	34
{ Puncheon	8	142	21
1889 { Pipe	79	72	41
{ Puncheon	125	116	122

DEALS—PINE.—There is a considerable decrease as will be seen by the statements, in the amount of business usually carried on in pine deals. Not only has the supply and export been small in comparison to years gone by, but the stock now on hand is unusually light. The quantity held over at Ottawa and Montreal is also reported to be less than usual. There has been a fair demand all season for the lower grades but firsts

and seconds have been difficult to dispose of at current rates. Large shipments have been made as usual from the port of Montreal.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890	878,810	1,075,992	246,015
1889	1,389,869	1,307,842	693,197

Do. SPRUCE—Have been dull and neglected all season, prices have declined, and at the present time it is very difficult to effect sales. We believe the production will be small unless higher figures can be produced in Great Britain, which seems doubtful at present owing to the low prices of North Europe woods.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1890	3,839,914	3,975,576	774,020
1889	3,684,468	3,584,468	1,159,682

SAWN LUMBER.—Throughout the season the market has been much depressed for shipment to the United Kingdom, but the American market has continued fair, and the demand for Canadian goods is an increasing one.

The South American trade has been very dull indeed, and present prospects are not encouraging.

We quote pine at \$15 to \$18 per thousand feet b. m. and spruce at \$10.50 to \$12, according to quality, size, &c.

Freights opened at 25s. for timber, and 60s. to 62s. 6d. for deals, closed at 16s. for timber and 40s. to 42s. 6d. for deals.

The following are the arrivals and tonnage at the port of Quebec for the five years from 1886 to 1890, inclusive.

SAILING VESSELS FROM SEA.					
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890
Vessels	432	393	318	392	381
Tons	331,568	295,912	260,301	326,706	320,093

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.					
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890
Steamships	285	287	244	324	341
Tons	528,950	541,324	484,449	596,598	642,874

LOWER PROVINCES.					
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890
Vessels	348	425	447	371	442
Tons	145,189	193,136	231,518	196,269	241,242

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of sailing vessels cleared at the port of Quebec, for sea, (Lumber laden) 1877 to 1890, from the opening to the close of navigation.

(Compiled by Mr. F. Johnston, Quebec Exchange.)

Year	Vessels	Tons
1877	796	670,627
1878	476	399,833
1879	433	364,628
1880	634	555,451
1881	459	380,186
1882	426	359,025
1883	487	416,169
1884	366	291,598
1885	369	294,789
1886	325	250,635
1887	271	206,172
1888	227	195,928
1889	275	240,892
1890	250	238,162

RULE FOR ESTIMATING STANDING TIMBER.

Following is a rule for estimating standing timber, prepared by George Bonsfield, of London, England:—

"When a tree stands so that a length of its shadow can be measured, its length can be readily ascertained by setting a stick upright, and as the length of the shadow of stick is to its height, so is the length of the shadow of the tree to the height of the tree; or, multiply the length of the shadow of the tree by the height of the stick and divide by the length of the shadow of the stick.

Example—Supposing the height of the stick be 5 feet and its shadow 6 feet, and the length of the shadow of the tree 25 feet, what is the height of the tree?

$$6 : 5 :: 25 : x$$

$$\frac{6 \times 25}{5} = 30$$

20 ft. 10 in. height of tree; But when there is no shadow to assist you in your calculations it would be advisable, in the absence of a rod or short ladder, to screeve the tree, say at 6 feet, and walking backwards take a full view of the tree and judge the number of 6 feet lengths there are in it.

But after a little practice in this way it will be seen that shadow, rod and ladder can all be dispensed with (except in special cases), and your eye becomes then your sure guide."