

cult. Fraser & Co., of Melbourne, Aus., report on the timber market that the new year has opened with very dull enquiries for all descriptions of imported timber. No large sales of Oregon pine have taken place and generally this line for many reasons is in a most unsatisfactory state. No quotations can be given. Red wood shares in the general dullness. Laths and pickets are in full supply and concessions demanded by buyers. A recent visitor to the New York lumber market tells us that the export trade from there with the West Indies has seldom been more depressed.

#### HARDWOODS.

The demand for ash, elm, basswood and birch has been satisfactory to most dealers. The difficulty is in securing stock needed. Roads are still blocked in many parts of the country, and buyers who are out looking up stocks are finding it slower work than expected to get these forward. Basswood and ash are in good demand. United States buyers, are calling in nearly all cases for firsts and seconds, and it is a hard matter to buy except on mill run from the mills. The trade in some cases would rather lose orders than buy in this manner, and have a remnant of common goods left on their hands, for which they can receive no price worth naming. Hemlock is in good demand, and in conversation with a visiting lumberman from Philadelphia, we learn that there is no trouble in disposing of all the quartered oak that can be placed on the market. Similar word comes from Buffalo, where values are said to be firm, and will go higher.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

##### CANADA.

Few New Brunswick contracts have as yet been made on English accounts and quotations are nominal.

About 1,000,000 feet of long lumber, 300,000 lath and 500 pieces of piling, were shipped during the week from St. John, N. B., for United States ports.

It is said that the lumber on the Miramichi, N. B., will be nearly 50 per cent. in excess of a year ago. Having little or no logs on hand the saw mills will commence at once on new stock.

Some 28½ miles of crown timber limits, on the south-east branch of the Upsalquitch N. B., have been sold to Geo. Moffat, and 32½ miles on Tague's brook and the south-west branch of the Carouquet river, to K. F. Burns, both at the upset price of \$8 a mile.

Winnipeg lumber dealers, in view of the reduction in manufacturers' prices for lumber, will likely increase their discounts from 5 per cent. as last year to 10 per cent. the coming season. This will mean an average reduction of fully \$1 per 1,000, on dimension, boards, shiplap, etc., and running up as high as \$2 on better grades.

A correspondent of the Northwestern Lumberman, writing from Muskegon, Mich., says that Georgian Bay stumpage owners have been in that district within the past week endeavoring to dispose of, to John Torrent, and other Muskegon lumbermen, 15,000,000 feet of pine in that territory. It was argued that the logs could be brought there by way of Lake Michigan at not over a 25c increase over towing to Bay City, and Muskegon as a better location with reference to Chicago will more than counter-balance that item. It

is understood that negotiations, though off now, will be resumed later on.

#### UNITED STATES.

At Albany, N. Y., a fair quantity of spruce lumber is sold ahead, but little pine.

W. B. Mershon & Co., of Saginaw, have contracted for 15,000,000 feet of lumber to be brought by boat from Duluth.

W. A. Woodin, of Fairhaven, Wash. Ter., has received orders from Michigan for 50 carloads of Washington red cedar lumber.

The Witbeck stocks of 40,000,000 feet at Marinette, Wis., have been bought by Holland, Graves & Montgomery, of Buffalo, N. Y.

A good deal of activity prevails in box trade at Baltimore, Md. Small lots of box lumber have sold for \$11 and \$12 and one 10-in. box has brought \$11.50—\$2.50 above the nominal quotation.

Col. A. T. Bliss, of Saginaw, Mich., is negotiating with Canadian parties for the manufacture of 4,000,000 feet of lumber for the export trade. The deals will be cut from logs brought from the lands of Col. Bliss in Midland County.

Log run at Saginaw, Mich., has sold during the week at from \$14 to \$18; box \$10 to \$10.50 and Norway pine at \$8 to \$8.50 for ordinary lengths. Shingles are dull, and prices run from \$1.35 to \$1.75 for clear butts to \$2.40 to \$2.75 for No. 1.

#### THE SITUATION.

REFLECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OF "WEEKLY LUMBERMAN."

N. Wenger & Bros., Ayton, Ont.: A good demand exists at the present time for hemlock, though stocks generally are not moving actively. In maple especially stocks are large.

John M. Beyers, Germania, Ont.: Birch and black ash in most demand, though no stocks moving actively. Have fair stocks of birch and ash, and prices are firm. Good sized stocks of hardwoods and shingles are held in this district. Shingles are declining in price.

Geo. Thomson, Wingham, Ont.: Stocks moving slowly. Hemlock is in fair demand. No sales of any importance in this locality concluded lately. Stocks on hand are small, and weather so stormy that it has been difficult to get logs out. Prices are firm. I think as spring opens out trade will be good.

Millard Lumber Co., New York, N. Y.: There has been a better movement of stocks during the past two weeks, good grades of pine and spruce being in most demand. Our impression is that good stocks of spruce and pine are to be found on the market here. Prices are firm, with a tendency to stiffen still more.

Seaman & Newman, Warton, Ont.: Stocks are moving very slowly, the chief call being for birch. We are just shipping about 200,000 feet inch maple, 1st and 2nd, at \$11.50. Hardwood stocks in this district are better grade than a year ago. Not so much taken out. Large stocks of hemlock and cedar. Prices about same as last season, with prospects of an advance with opening of navigation.

J. A. Shaver, Ancaster, Ont.: As far as there is any active movement of stocks, though much cannot be said on this point, pine, common bill, inch basswood and

inch red oak are in most demand. Recent sales include 400,000 red oak, inch and two inch, at \$18—1sts, 2nds and common. Stocks here are exceedingly light, and consist chiefly of red oak, basswood, soft elm, cherry and walnut. Not much immediate prospects for large trade.

W. B. Mershon & Co., Saginaw, E. S., Mich.: Stocks are far from moving actively. Lumber in most demand at present time consists of 2½", 3" and 4" Sh and better, 4/4, 5/4, 6/4 and 8/4 F. com., selects and uppers—in other words good lumber. Stocks are large for the demand. Think there is too little good lumber for the amount of common offering. Prices are firm; good lumber will advance towards spring. All orders received are wanted quick. Box shoo trade is picking up.

#### CANADIAN WOODS IN LIVERPOOL AND GLASGOW.

THE Timber Trades Journal, of London, Eng., in a very complete special issue giving a review of lumber conditions the world over, furnishes some interesting figures of the trade at Liverpool in Canadian woods. There has been no such heavy arrivals of spruce at Liverpool since 1889, when the import was 72,339 standards; that of the past year being 69,031 standards, but the business has been, on the whole, a disappointing one. The importation of pine timber in the form of square or waney board logs has again shown a diminution in quantity, the import being the least that has occurred since 1891, which was an exceptionally small one. The causes for this steady decrease in what was once the chief output of the Canadian lumbermen are not far to seek. In the first place all the commoner qualities of Quebec pine logs have had to give away to the importations of pitch pine from the Southern States of America where the free-on-board cost is infinitely less than that of the Canadian woods. The better qualities, such as were imported for prime deck plank, and similar work, now find but a small place in the markets of Great Britain owing to the substitution of iron for wooden vessels. And even now the finest shipments of waney board pine are in danger of being ousted from its high position by the adoption of other descriptions of timber amongst machinists, but perhaps in the greatest degree by the numerous handy and economical forms in which we receive the sawn products of the mills of Ottawa and its neighborhood. What we have received during the past season consisted principally of the choicest logs of large average girth imported under contract for special purposes, such as will fill the high requirements of first-class machine makers. This tendency is likely to develop rather than decrease, and will be intensified by the ever increasing prices demanded for prime waney board wood at the port of shipment. We observe, however, that the stock in Liverpool is only 94,000 ft. The importation of Canadian pine deals, pine boards, red pine deals shipped from Montreal, Quebec, etc., to the United Kingdom, considerably exceeds the previous year's shipments, the increase being in boards of all qualities, which may be accounted for, chiefly from the fact consumers of pine timber in the log in many instances have set aside their prejudice against Canadian sawn boards, after finding their substitution to be vastly more economical, and to

answer their purposes. Beyond this, great inducement for large shipments was held out to buyers by the low freights to Liverpool, Avonmouth, London and other places where lines of steamers regularly trade, competition forcing rates down 25 per cent. from which they did not recover until late in the season. There was a spirited demand for Canadian red pine deals during the early part of the season which seemed to fall off as the year progressed, and ended sluggishly with heavy stocks. Pine deals on the whole were remunerative during the year, especially 2nds and 3rds of good manufacture, whilst 1sts declined under excessive stocks. Pine boards and sidings were disposed of with difficulty under the heavy importation, the shipments being chiefly to Liverpool. We have now a stock in this market of 14,015 standards, being the heaviest on record, and more than will fill any probable demand that may arise before the next import season commences. But at the same time we must not forget the demand for pine in its cut up forms of deals, boards, sidings, strips and similar shapes is steadily increasing, though not so rapidly as to make that impression upon this stock before next season's arrivals come to hand which holders would wish to see.

Of trade at Glasgow, Scotland, this journal says: During the past year an active state of trade has been experienced here, notwithstanding some checks it received, and the figures representing the volume of business compare favorably with previous years. The imports show a marked increase as regards consumption; while in log timber the aggregate deliveries have equalled 1893, there has been in sawn goods an expansion compared with that year. Quebec log timber as has been the case for some years past, tends to fall off in quantities used, the total for the past year being 21,000 loads, and hardwood about 10,000 loads, which are somewhat under the figures for the previous year. Causes assigned for this shrinkage are advancing rates required for shippers, competition of logs from other quarters, and the increased trade in sawn wood, which has greatly developed within recent years. The consumption or deliveries of pitch pine for the year have been about 48,000 loads: of teak about 13,000 loads (which is 4,500 more than preceding years). Quebec deals about 20,500 St. Petersburg standards, and Lower Port, 11,000 St. Petersburg standards. Canary white-wood logs show a consumption of about 3,000 loads, or nearly double that of preceding year; also in planks and boards this wood is taking considerable place in the imports. Arrivals of mahogany show a larger total compared with recent years, and this trade is capable of further increase by suitably varied cargoes (with small wood in moderate proportions) being directed to this market from time to time.

The Oxford Furniture Co., Ltd., planing mills, Oxford, N. S., are asking for an extension of three months.

The Canadian Copper Co., who operate extensively nickel mines in the township of McKim use annually about 22,000 cords of wood for fuel. D. O'Connor, of Sudbury, Ont., has just closed a large contract with them for wood for this purpose.