

OUR ALBANY LETTER.

ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 23th, 1890.

The amendment tariff now reads as follows :

"Timber, hewed and sawed, and timber posts for spars and wharves, ten per cent. ad valorem. Sawed boards, plank, deals, and other lumber of hemlock, whitewood, sycamore; white pine one dollar per thousand and feet board measure. Cedar posts, paving posts, railroad ties, and telegraph poles of cedar, twenty-five per cent. ad valorem. Pine clapboards one dollar per thousand, spruce clapboards one dollar and fifty cents per thousand, lath fifteen cents per thousand pieces, pickets and palings ten per cent. ad valorem, white pine shingles twenty cents per thousand; all others thirty cents.

By the time another month rolls around business will about have reached an end in this market, and the dealers will be preparing to go into winter quarters in the city.

Albany while being one of the best arranged and most convenient markets in this country for handling lumber by winter is by no means what might be called a railroad shipping point as the facilities for shipping and receiving by car are very poor, the lumber having to be carted long distances, consequently when navigation closes the majority of the merchants shut up their offices and yards in the district which extends along the river front about a mile above the city and move into town where they sit around until spring, though some do a small car trade filling orders for consumers who happen to run short of stock.

This month will wind up the receipts for the year. Shipments from the mill are about completed and not much more can come down the canal before it closes. We will not go into winter with as large a stock this year as has been carried over in some previous years, but there will be assortment enough to supply all the requirements of the spring trade.

Both lake and canal freights have been low all season and the dealers have been the gainers, but the boatmen will probably have to crawl out at the little end of the horn.

The trade in all grades of pine both Canada and Michigan has held out only fairly well during the past month as the bottom seemed to drop completely out of the New York market. A moderate demand only was the consequence. All the present month will no doubt see a good business doing for the wind up of the season as the dealers have scarcely got in their full winter's stocks yet.

In Canada pine the demand has been principally on the intermediate grades such as 1 and 1 1/4 inch cutting up, 1 to 2 inch yard picks, dressing lumber, and 1 1/4 and 1 1/2 inch box. The demand for 1x10 boards and for pine lath has also picked up somewhat of late though the supply is not any too large. One inch box has been scarce for some time past but the thicker grades are in better stock. Prices on all thicknesses of box lumber will probably advance a dollar or more before the season ends.

The New York export trade has about cleaned this market out of thick uppers, and the stock remaining is very high.

It is rumored that the Chicago dealers have this week made a general advance on all grades of lumber of \$1.50 per thousand, and that there was a possibility of Michigan manufacturers following suit. How true this is we do not know, but any advance of pines in Michigan would hardly effect us this fall. Next spring it might have a tendency to stiffen up pines here somewhat.

The condition of the spruce market remains unchanged. The stock is by no means large, but the demand continues with prices firm. Cull spruce of all grades has had the largest sale. Cull hemlock of all widths is in light stock but good demand.

Prices on several grades of cull spruce and hemlock have recently advanced owing to light stocks and the difficulty of obtaining a new supply.

The hardwood trade has come in for a good share of the business of the past month and quotations rule firm. On cherry and ash prices are stiff for choice

lots, while quartered oak is in good demand it being all the fashion now for furniture.

John M. Winnie, of Saxe Bros., and Nelson H. Salisbury, of Hughson & Co., were in Ottawa last week buying stock for the fall trade.

Thomas Holmes, of Montreal, was in the city a short time ago and visited around amongst the dealers in the district. He did business for many years in this locality and is well and favorably known to the trade. He has many friends in Albany.

James M. Irwin, of Peterboro', Canada, dropped in on us a few days ago in company with his old friend, Chas. H. Getman, formerly of Oswego, but now of Stamford, Conn.

Mr. Irwin makes occasional trips to the States when he has any choice stocks to dispose of, and his visit here was for the purpose of placing some lots of lumber with Albany parties. How well he succeeded we did not learn.

Robt. A. Stuart, of Pierce & Co., Ottawa, was in town about the same time, on about the same errand. Mr. Stuart is well known to the trade in all the lumber centres and is a hustler when on the road selling stock.

Twenty-five thousand acres of spruce lands in Northern New York owned by L. Thomson & Co., of this city, recently sold for \$5 an acre.

OUR BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

The Burnette Saw Mill Co. are now running to their full capacity and turning out work of all kinds, mouldings, etc. They have trimmers for butting their lumber to equal lengths, which is a great advantage to all using it over the old way of uneven lengths. The whole of their machinery is working very well.

A remarkable accident happened in their mill early in October. A mechanic had his head caught by the key of a shaft pulley as he was coming down a ladder after putting on a belt and whirled round the shaft. In revolving the back of his legs caught in the ropes of the rope-feed and wound round the shaft with him, and so securely was he bound that the rope had to be cut to pieces before he could be released. The rope so winding threw the belt driving this shaft off the pulley and this is one cause which contributed to save the man's life. The three inch shaft was bent. When he was taken down he was insensible, but soon revived and is at work again. All his clothing was torn off except his overalls and boots.

The fires this year did very little or no damage to timber in the New Westminster district.

The over due barque "Astoria" with the second cargo of steel rails for the New Westminster and Southern Railroad has at last arrived and is discharging at the new wharf at Liverpool, B. C. The work of track laying is going on rapidly and soon New Westminster will be in direct communication with the States by railroad, terminating for the present opposite this city.

We were glad to see the prominent notice you gave on first page October issue to the large sticks of fir sent to Montreal.

The local demand for lumber keeps up and shipments to Manitoba and the North-West Territory are ever increasing.

A new departure in exports is shipments per steamers, two being chartered during October for Melbourne, Australia. Freights continue high as vessels are scarce.

The MacLaren Ross Lumber Co. have added four nice cottages to their village at Millside, to be occupied by their employees. It is expected they will be sawing to their full capacity shortly.

Messrs. Purdy & Dixon are building a mill to cut about 25 M daily, three miles west of Mission St. on the C. P. R.

Two local practical men have formed a company with eastern capitalists and are applying for incorporation. The capital is \$500,000. Their intention is to build on the Fraser River, which is undoubtedly the very best position for such industries.

Building has been very brisk in Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster all summer and shows no signs

of falling off yet. Last week's steady rains retarded operations, but they are again in full blast and it is to be hoped that the present mild and fine weather may continue.

Many of the farmers have improved their buildings and fences, and the new settlers have also contributed to the demand for lumber, and seldom a day passes without lumber going either up or down the river.

Ship "Titania" now loading salmon for England will sail for New Westminster about 1st November. This is the first direct shipment. The salmon is generally sent to Victoria for shipment.

Royal City planing mills here intend excluding local orders and shipments to the North-West Territory, while exports per vessels will be for their mills (The Hastings) on Burrard Inlet.

Ship-owners and captains prefer coming here, as the fresh water cleans the vessels as effectually as if put into dock and scrubbed.

There are constant enquiries for timber limits for American, English and Canadian capitalists.

Elmar Ward's new shingle mill at this city is turning out a superior cedar shingle. Two car loads have been sent as far east as Winnipeg.

The Simmons, Burpee, Elkin & Smith shingle mill on Vancouver Road will shortly be under way.

The Mechanic's Mill Co. have all the orders they can execute.

H. B. Beeton, Esq., representing the British Columbia Government in London, Eng., has been busy collecting all possible data re lumber, timber limits, sawmills and their outputs, etc., for Whitaker's Almanac. Mr. James Maclaren, President of the Maclaren Ross Lumber Co., is at present here.

H. G. R.

HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE REVIEW.

Office of CANADA LUMBERMAN,
Oct. 31st, 1890.

The local lumber trade remains in about the same condition as it has for some months past, with the exception that there are more inquiries, but prices remain unchanged. Trade in the west has improved to some extent as many of the dealers are laying in their stocks for the winter; early shipments for the east are looked for. The old standing complaint of a scarcity of cars is heard on every hand as no increase in the supply of cars has taken place to date. This is not to be wondered at as the increase supply was not promised before the 15th of this month, and when it does come it will be most too late to be of any material benefit to the trade.

Since the export duty on logs was taken off, lumber shipments in the Ottawa district have largely increased, and the prospects for the rest of the season are decidedly encouraging. Notwithstanding the lumber for shipment at Ottawa will aggregate over 200,000,000 feet, the mills are nearly all in full blast, and as much lumber is being turned out as at any period during the summer. J. R. Booth's, Perley & Patte's, and the Bronson & Weston mills are running day and night. It is too early to obtain anything but approximate figures as to the number of feet cut during the season, but it has been less than last year. Messrs. Pearce have cut more than they ever did. Just when the mills will close down will largely depend on the weather, but most of the mills will quit cutting by the middle of November.

At Montreal the lumber trade has only been fairly active during the month. There is, however, a better demand for lumber locally, the trade requiring their purchases for immediate consumption. Within the past two weeks the export trade has been working up somewhat as more business is being done in that line. Prices remain unchanged.

The Quebec market continues without much change. A raft of very good Ottawa pine recently changed hands at prices which have not transpired. For hardwood there is rather a better demand. The trade at that port, may upon the whole, be regarded as dull, and is likely to remain so until the close of the season. The shipping houses have sufficient stock to meet all present engagements, and in the uncertain state of business in Great Britain are not inclined to purchase as usual for next year's requirements. There has been a slight un-