

AUSTRALIA.

Messrs. Lord & Hughes' monthly circular, dated Melbourne, Jan. 23rd, says:—

We commence this year by issuing our regular monthly circular for the San Francisco mail, instead of the English mail as heretofore, as the information contained will be of later date for our American constituents, while it will suit our English and Baltic friends just as well; consequently, this circular will embrace all information in relation to building materials from the date of our last circular on 14th December last.

Trade, since our last, has been exceedingly languid, consequent on the heavy arrivals of all descriptions of timber, and the disinclination of the trades to purchase beyond their immediate requirements, except at very low prices offered by speculators to store, waiting for a remunerative market. The season of the year has also operated prejudicially as the trade are busy with usual stock-taking, and have not wished to increase their stock until that is over.

We regret to have to advise lower prices in nearly every description of building materials:—Oregon, Baltic, Canadian and American dressed and clear and Kauri pine. We can hold out no prospect of an improvement in the immediate future, as large stocks here, and known to be on the way, will prevent any advance for some time to come, except for exceptional lines that may be in demand.

Our land and property sales appear to have met with a relapse for the present, which also helps to prejudice the timber trade.

There is a fair business reported from the yards, and the trade do not report any falling off in business. We have to notice the retirement from business of Mr. Henry Mills, who for thirty years has been one of our most enterprising, plucky, and most respected buyers, and it is satisfactory to state that he retires with a competence.

RED DEALS.—Imports: 705 standard, 72,492 pieces from the Baltic, 5,421 pieces red pine from Canada. The arrivals have been Hama, China, Soudre, Inchgreen, Solid, Midnatsol, Magnet, Elizabeth, Bengal, Anthon, G. S. Homer, Tirade Tarabochia, from Baltic ports, and Malvina, from Montreal. The principal auction sales during the past six weeks was the cargo ex Hama, on the 12th inst., MB brand, when the following prices were realized:—1x3, 6 1-10d; 11x4, 6 3-4d; 9x4, 5 3-4d to 5 3-4d; 9x3, 5 3-4d to 4 3-4d; 9x2, 5 3-4d to 4 3-4d; 7x3, 5d to 4 3-4d; 7x2 1-2, 5 3-4d to 4 3-4d; all per foot of 9x3. The cargoes ex Solid, Bengal, and Tirade Tarabochia have been placed privately.

SPRUCE DEALS.—Imports: 19,457 pieces. The arrivals have been Inchgreen, Midnatsol, and Elizabeth, from Baltic ports; Paul Jones, from New York; Malvina, from Montreal; and Sovereign, from Saguenay. Sales by auction comprise parcel ex Steinvara, at 3 3-4d to 3 1-2d; shipments ex Palmerston, at 3 3-4d to 2 1-2d; and parcel ex Midnatsol, brand FWT, at 4 3-4d to 3 3-4d; and brand TWF, at 3 3-4d per foot of 9x3.

OREGON TIMBER.—Imports: 7,112,267 feet super. The arrivals have been California, Gerard C. Tobey, Makah, Estella, Colusa, Sagamore, General Butler, and C. C. Funk. Sales by auction have been cargoes ex California, at £5 15s to £5, average £5 3s 2d; ex Kitsap, £5 10s to £4 15s, average £4 19s; ex Gerard C. Tobey, £5 5s to £4 15s, average £4 16s. The following cargoes have been sold privately:—Estella and Colusa.

LUMBER.—Imports: Clear pine, 1,100,921 feet super; White pine shoving, 1,156,606 feet super; T. and G. Ceiling, 113,169 feet super. The arrivals have been—Ragna, Chas. Dinnis, Glensack, and Kamfjord from New York; Paul Jones, from Boston; Delphine Melaine, and Jorsalfarer, from San Francisco; and Swift, from Adelaide. Sales by auction have been parcels ex Steinvara and Jorsalfarer. Michigan clear realized £15 5s. to £14; dressed clear pine, £12 12s 6d to £12 15s; shoving £10 10s to £9; carpenter's clear, £11, sugar pine, £13 7s 6d to £12 15s.

REDWOOD.—Imports: 317,297 feet super. The arrivals have been—Jorsalfarer, California, and Delphine Melaine, from San Francisco. The parcel sold at auction during the past six

weeks is that ex Jorsalfarer, at £9 to £7 17s 6d.

FLOORING AND WEATHERBOARDS.—Imports: 21,220,076 feet lineal from the United Kingdom and Baltic ports; 120,914 feet lineal from Canada. The arrivals have been—China, Soudre, Inchgreen, Thulatta, Telefon, Midnatsol, Ganli, Magnet, Elizabeth, Summerlidge, Frigga, Anthon, George S. Homer, and Waldimir, from Baltic ports; Malaysia, Loch Etive, Lisamore and Loch Katrine, from United Kingdom; and Konowarra, from Adelaide. Sales by auction comprise portions of cargoes ex Muncaster Castle, Soudre, and Midnatsol. We report prices as follows:—Red, 6x1 1-2, 10s 3d; 6x3, 8s 6d; 6x4, 7s; 6x5, 6s 3d; 4-out weatherboards, 6s 3d. White, 6x1 1-2, 9s 6d; 6x1 1-2, 8s 6d; 6x3, 6s 6d to 6s 9d; 6x4, 5s to 5s 3d.

KAURI PINE.—Imports: 1,288,000 feet super. Arrivals have been—Killarney, Myrtle, Buster, Parnell, Calindin and Grassmore. Sales by auction have been flooring, ex Hands Isle and Buster, and dressed shelving and boards, ex Myrtle, and hewn logs ex Ansdell. We report sales, flooring 6x1 1-2, 12s 6d; 6x3, 10s to 9s 9d; 4x1 1-2, 10s to 9s 6d; dressed shelving, 21s 6d to 19s 6d; hewn logs, 12s to 10s.

PITCH PINE.—Imports: Nil.

CEDAR.—Imports: 14,000 feet super. Arrivals have been per coasting steamers. There have been no auction sales since the date of our last report. We quote present value at 35s to 40s per log, according to size and quality.

DOORS.—Imports: 4,603. Arrivals have been Jorsalfarer and Delphine Melaine, from San Francisco; Paul Jones from Boston; Swift from Adelaide. The parcel of redwood doors ex Jorsalfarer was sold at auction on the 15th inst.

LATHS AND PICKETS.—Imports: Laths, 22,227 bundles; pickets, 19,008 bundles. Prices show a decline on last month's rate.

SLATES.—Imports: 1,109,396. The arrivals have been—Alliance, Borrowdale, Lake Superior, Halewood and Duñow, from United Kingdom; Ragna Paul Jones, Charles Dennis, and Glensack, from United States of America; Orson, from Tasmania. In consequence of heavy arrivals, prices are easier. Several parcels have been sold privately, prices withheld. We quote American Bangor, 24x12, £11; 20x10, £8; Welsh Bangor, 24x12, £13; 20x10, £9 10s.

PLASTER.—Imports: 1,847 barrels. Stocks are heavy and prices lower. We quote 11s to 12s per cask.

CREMENT.—19,660 barrels. Arrivals are far in excess of requirements and prices lower; we quote 12s 6d for best brands, and for inferior 11s.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Imports: 1,881 tons. Owing to heavy arrivals sales are difficult to effect, except at lower prices on last month's rates. We quote best brands at £10; other brands, £15.

EXPLANATION.—Red deals and spruce deals are sold at per foot of 9x3; T. and G. flooring at per 100 feet running; Oregon timber, Redwood, clear pine, shelving, ceiling, per 1,000 feet super; Kauri pine and cedar logs at per 100 feet super; laths, pickets and slates at per 1,000 pieces. Shorts are all lengths under 12 feet.

PREVENTING THE ENDS OF TIMBER FROM CHECKING IN DRYING.

Some English authorities have recently been making experiments upon the subject of drying timber without allowing the ends to check. After making a variety of tests, they report that by painting the ends of the stick with thick glue, and allowing it to harden, they succeeded in drying several kinds of lumber without having end checks make their appearance. The theory of the action was that they succeeded in forcing the glue far enough into the pores of the timber, so that the ends were to a certain extent cemented together, and at the same time prevented from drying more rapidly than the body of the stick itself. Very little more has been made known in regard to this system, and we have been unable to get any particulars in regard to the kinds of wood employed, or the length of time they were subjected to the drying processes.

Mr. F. D. Adams, the General Master car

builder of the Boston & Albany railroad, writing to us in reply to a query in regard to this system, says:—"I have never heard of glue being used on ends of timber to avoid checking. In fact, I should not think it would be of any use, as both the moisture from the timber and the rain, where lumber is stacked out doors, would in a short time destroy its strength. Possibly it might be of service, if timber was under good cover. We have been for years in the habit of covering the ends of our timber with a heavy covering of thick oil paint. This keeps the ends of the wood full, and prevents the water from getting in. Almost any kind of paint will answer the purpose."

In many of the lumber yards where foreign timber is received, it is the habit in stacking wide boards, to nail narrow pieces of laths over their ends. This prevents the too rapid drying of the end, at the same time binding the board and preventing it from splitting. Even this, however, is not always sufficient to keep wide mahogany lumber from cracking badly.

Protection for the ends of all kinds of timber stacked so as to be exposed to the weather, is very essential, and the rough oil paint is probably as cheap and as satisfactory as anything that has yet been thoroughly tried. In connection with this perhaps the most satisfactory investment of labor and material is found in the system adopted on the Lehigh Valley Road, by Mr. Lentz, also on a few other roads. This is to erect at the corner of each lumber pile four uprights which carry a light roof sufficient to shed the rain and pretty thoroughly protect the pile beneath. In some cases, we have seen these roofs made like the roof of a hay rick, to be raised or lowered to suit the height of the pile beneath it. The cost of a construction of this kind is merely nominal and on some roads amounts only to the labor of putting up, the necessary timber being derived from rejected stuff which the lumber dealers do not consider worth removing—*Journal Railway Appliances.*

Wonderful is the instantaneous effect of West's Pain Kink in relieving cramps, colic and all bowel difficulties. Worth its weight in gold and costs but 25 cents. Should always be kept in every household. Sold by J. D. Tully druggist.

Perhaps the most extraordinary that success has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon treatment for Catarrh. Out of 2,000 patients treated during the past six months, fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefited, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues, Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination; this accomplished the Catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as cures effected by him four years ago are cures still. No one else has ever attempted to cure Catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured Catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure, the majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 205 King street west, Toronto, Canada, and enclose a stamp for their treatise on Catarrh.—*Montreal Star.* 1y122.

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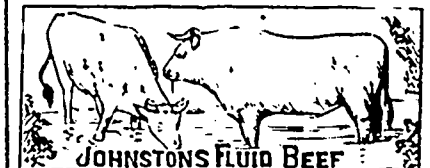
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