

## Market Reports.

## MONTREAL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MARCH 24th.—The action of the authorities in charging over weight of from \$2 to \$5 on lumber brought by the Q. M. & O. Railway, has for the time being put a stop to importations by that line, and no more will likely be brought this spring, merchants preferring now to wait the opening of navigation; this, however will cause no inconvenience here, as stocks of most kinds of lumber are ample to meet the demand, which has been fair during the past two weeks. Prices are firm but not quotably changed. We continue to quote:

Pine, 1st quality, 2 M	\$35 00	40 00
Pine, 2nd " " M	18 00	24 00
Pine, shipping culls, 2 M	14 00	15 00
Pine, cull deals, 2 M	8 00	12 00
Pine, mill culls, 2 M	5 00	8 00
Spruce, 2 M	8 00	10 00
Hemlock, 2 M	8 00	10 00
Aspen, run of long c. " M	10 00	18 00
Bass, " M	10 00	17 00
Oak, 2 M	35 00	45 00
Birch, 2 M	17 00	20 00
Hard Maple, 2 M	13 00	25 00
Lath, 2 M	1 50	0 00
Shingles, 1st, 2 M	3 00	0 00
Shingles, 2nd, 2 M	2 00	0 00

London mail advices say that there is special dullness in the lumber market, buyers and sellers being wide apart in their views. Stocks are not much behind that of last year, and during the week ending first inst., 7 timber laden vessels were reported either lost or disabled. From Liverpool we learn that a better business has been done, but prices rule low.

COMMONWEALTH.—There has been quite an excitement among cordwood dealers during the last week owing to the new regulation which came into force in the rates of freight charged on wood by the Q. M. & O. Railway, which used to be paid for at the rate of \$1.70 a cord from the Ottawa District, but is now charged by weight, which will make a difference of about \$7.50 per car load from that district, and \$6.25 from St. Jerome. This has stopped the demand from the depot, and dealers are anxiously looking forward to the opening of navigation, when they will be enabled to get their supplies by the canal, and in the meantime they have petitioned the Government to restore the former rate of \$1.50. The public, or rather consumers, consider they have been rather hardly dealt with in this matter, as one of the principal reasons for the city giving one million dollars towards the building of the railway was that fuel could be brought from the back woods much more cheaply than formerly. Owing to considerable stocks on hand no advance has yet taken place in quotations, but on all coming under the new tariff, it is fully expected that a rise of 50 cents per cord will be established. There has been a fairly active demand lately for wood, which we still quote at the railway depot, ex cartage:—

Long Maple.....	\$0 00
Short ".....	5 50
Long Birch.....	5 50
Short ".....	5 00
Long Beech.....	5 00
Short ".....	4 50
Long Tamarack.....	4 50
Short ".....	4 00

## TORONTO.

From our own Correspondent.

MARCH 22nd.—Active preparations are now being made for the opening of navigation, and several vessels are now loading ready for a start as soon as the month closes. The *Marquis*, *John Bently* and *Annie Mulvey*, three vessels owned by Capt. Hall, of this city, will all take cedar ties the first trip, and are now on the way loading; the total capacity of the three above named crafts is 1,250,000 ft. Rates to Oswego will open at \$1.25 per M., and strong efforts will be made to ship all dry lumber away as fast as vessels can be procured to carry it, but the want of proper dock room on which to pile lumber pending the arrival of vessels, is seriously felt, car lots in many cases having to be unloaded and again reloaded to shunt to the vessel's rail, or else the cars are kept under board, thereby causing a scarcity of cars during the busiest portion of the shipping season; the N. & N. W. R. Co. are likely to be taxed to their utmost to supply shippers with sufficient cars, as the square timber will have to come here at the same time as early shipments of sawn lumber, whereas in former years the bulk of the

hewn timber for the English market got in port before the opening of navigation, and although the company have placed their boats in position, not a stick of timber has yet arrived, so that when the limited water front owned by the R. R. Co. is partly taken up by the timbermen, it makes shipping by vessels slow and vexatious.

The mild and rainy weather of the past few weeks has operated somewhat against the brisk sales from the yards, as the new streets, on which most of the building operations are in progress, have become nearly impassable for laden teams, yet so far as my observation goes, most of the retail yards have had all they could do to furnish orders, and you will observe that bill stuff has advanced \$1 per M., and will, I think, remain at that figure during the season. Good cut up 1½ in. and 2 in. dry plank is in demand, but hard to obtain. Considerable dressed flooring, sheathing, and clap-boarding is now being shipped from here by rail to Manitoba, and no doubt but that a large quantity of such lumber will be shipped there during this coming summer, which will tend still more to create a scarcity of dry stuff here on the local market.

In continuing my observations ament our woodworking establishments here, I would next call your attention to the factory owned by J. B. Smith, on the Esplanade west of Yonge street. All the appliances for the cheapening of labour are to be found in this building, and as a large retail lumber business is run in connection with the factory, quite an extensive business is done, prepared lumber being sent as far east as Montreal.

A little farther west and situated on the corner of Lorne street and the Esplanade, stands the extensive sawing and planing mills, owned by Messrs. McCracken & Oliver. This firm keeps logs of all lengths on hand, so that any desired piece of timber can be turned from their saw carriage at short notice, and all fancy woods from their own extensive covered yard, adjoining the mill, can be immediately manipulated into any desired shape required by their customers.

The next in order are the large shops and machinery owned by Bryce Bros., situated at the foot of Frederick street. This factory was formerly operated by Joseph Gearing, who skipped out between the two lights to the land of the stars and stripes, leaving a host of creditors to mourn over their losses, but the old stand has now passed into energetic hands, and will be doubtless run for all it is worth, and as the firm has a large stock of lumber at all times on hand at their retail premises near by, their facilities for turning out good work, and plenty of it, are unsurpassed.

In my last letter where it reads "As it is well understood that the N. R. Co. receives no benefit for the charge levied for excess weight," it should read the "M. R. Co." as all Midland Railway cars pass over the G. T. R. route to this city.

## QUOTATIONS, FROM YARDS.

Mill cull boards and scantling	\$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	12 00
Common boards, promiscuous widths	14 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.	14 00
" " " " 18 ft.	14 50
" " " " 20 ft.	15 00
" " " " 22 ft.	15 50
" " " " 24 ft.	16 00
" " " " 26 ft.	16 50
" " " " 28 ft.	17 00
" " " " 30 ft.	18 00
" " " " 32 ft.	20 00
" " " " 34 ft.	22 50
" " " " 36 ft.	25 00
" " " " 38 ft.	30 00
" " " " 40 to 44 ft.	30 00
Cutting up planks to dry boards	22 50
Sound dressing stocks	20 00
Picks Am. Inspection	16 00
Three uppers, Am. Inspection	35 00
11-inch flooring, dressed	30 00
" " " " rough	15 00
" " " " dressed	20 00
" " " " undressed	15 00
" " " " dressed	20 00
" " " " undressed	16 00
Beaded Sheeting, dressed	20 00
Clapboarding, dressed	17 50
XXX sawn shingles, 2 M	2 50
XX sawn shingles	2 25
Sawn lath	2 50

## LONDON, ONT.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MARCH 24th.—The substance of my last letter is fully borne out by the feeling which prevails to-day throughout the lumbering interest of this

city. The inevitable result of an unseasonable winter must be higher prices, and there is a greater firmness displayed to-day than perhaps at any time during the last three months. Prices, however, cannot be said to be higher, but in no cases do we hear of any of the merchants making even the slightest concessions in consideration of that tempting "feeler" cash. Prospects for this spring are looking bright, and nearly all the lumber merchants have placed their contracts for supplies. One of our largest firms have placed their orders for about six million feet of lumber alone.

It is feared that the great Northwest boom will take away many of our carpenters and builders as soon as strong evidences of spring assert themselves, and that labor will be scarce and consequently will cost more; this, together with the anticipated advance in lumber, will add a considerable percentage to the cost of building.

An item in the *London Free Press*, of Thursday, says:—"A deputation from Chatham, Ont., will wait on the Minister of Finance tomorrow to urge the imposition of an export duty on elm logs shipped to the United States. The deputation consists of manufacturers of elm staves, who used to do a large business to the United States, but a duty of 25 per cent. having been imposed on the staves by the United States Government, and the logs being admitted free, the manufacture of the staves have been thrown into the hands of American manufacturers. The Canadian manufacturers think that by imposing an export duty on the logs they can recover most of their trade." I do not know how this will result, inasmuch as logs can only be classified as "raw material," and the imposition of an export duty might recoil on the heads of the projectors.

After the many promises I have made to furnish you with a data of the business done here for the past year, I cannot with consistency "hang fire" any longer, and I now herein give you an authentic statement of what has been done; and allow me here to thank the merchants of this city who received your correspondent so courteously, and so willingly furnished the information desired.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS DONE FOR YEAR 1881.

Lumber (all grades) ft.	13,740,300
Pieces Lath	6,190,190
Shingles	8,763,000

The quotations are at the present time about the same as last and you will be safe in giving them at this date. They are as follows:—

QUOTATIONS.	
Mill cull boards and scantling	\$11 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	12 00
Common boards, promiscuous widths	14 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.	14 00
" " " " 18 ft.	14 50
" " " " 20 ft.	15 00
" " " " 22 ft.	15 50
" " " " 24 ft.	16 00
Common stocks	15 00
Common 2 in. plank	14 00
Cutting up plank and boards	19 00
Sound dressing stocks	18 00
Clear and picks	23 00
Three uppers, Am. Inspection	35 00
1 inch dressed and matched flooring	21 00
" " " "	21 00
XXX sawn shingles, 2 M	2 50
Lath per 1000 feet	4 50

## OTTAWA.

MARCH 23.—Extensive preparations are now being made by the lumbering firms here for the spring drive. All the men that can be engaged are being sent up the river. Agents complain of a scarcity of men, and wages are consequently high. From \$25 to \$30 per month are paid. As soon as operations in the shanties, which are, however, being pushed on vigorously, come to a stop, there will be, it is thought, lots of hands for the drive. Timber and logs will continue to be manufactured until the first week in May in the most of the shanties on the Upper Ottawa, and on the Kippewa in particular. There are a number of concerns already closed, however, for want of snow, among them Capt. Young's shanties on Bissett's Creek, and Campbell McDougall's. Quite a number of this season's logs will be left in the woods, as generally happens, owing to innumerable difficulties in having them conveyed to the main streams. Demand for logs at present is fair, and lumber quotations also remain steady, with an upward tendency. Mill culls bring \$8 per thousand, and shipping culls from \$12 to \$13. In regard to the approaching season's trade, very fair quotations

are confidently expected to prevail, and a good summer is anticipated. Stocks on hand are not very large, orders having been continually filled during the past winter by rail shipment. The mills here will begin as early as possible, about the 1st of May.

## MIDLAND.

From our own Correspondent.

The prospects here are that a large cut of lumber will be made this present season. The several mill owners have made every effort to have their mills well stocked. The only question now will be the water supply for the drives. Dollar's mill is running to its full capacity; Chew Bros. have cut 4,000,000 feet of logs for their mill, the British Canadian Lumber and Timber Co. expect about from 33,000,000 to 36,000,000 feet of logs, and their new mill on Hugel Point here will be ready for cutting early in the season. J. A. Smith, of Port Hope, is engaged in taking out oak for car stuff, and is also dealing quite largely in ties, basswood and maple. He has shipped from this point to Niagara Falls sixteen carloads of poplar to be manufactured into paper. Tait's mill is now running daily, cutting oak for car stuff.

Property here is advancing rapidly; quite a boom in the market. A hotel stand sold for \$2,500 nine months since and now \$7,000 are refused, and a lot sold one year since for \$400, while now \$1,400 are refused. Lots are selling rapidly, and our village is making rapid progress.

## QUEBEC.

It is reported that Messrs. Sharpley & Co. and Messrs. Burstall & Co. have purchased this season's cut of Montmorency pine deals at about \$110 for firsts, \$73.33 for seconds, and \$36.66 for thirds. Messrs. R. R. Dobell & Co. are the largest holders of waney and square pine timber in this market. They have purchased very largely this season, and are said to have the control of 4,000,000 feet.

## ST. JOHN, N. B.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MARCH 22nd.—There is very little to notice in connection with our wood trade since last report. The weather continues cold, and the roads are in a better condition for hauling than usual at this season of the year, enabling the lumbermen to continue their operations in some sections, compensating in a small measure for the disadvantages of the mild weather in the earlier part of the season.

Some of our city mills have commenced sawing, but as the available supply of logs is very light, sawing operations will be on a limited scale till after the opening of the river, which generally takes place between the 20th and the last of April.

## FREIGHTS.

The demand for tonnage continues very light. In last report 60s. was quoted as the market rate; since that time two vessels have been placed at that figure, viz., *Herbert Beech*, 1,061, for Liverpool, and *Kato Sancton*, 677, for a direct port East Coast of Ireland. Quotations nominal, unchanged.

## SHIPMENTS.

The shipments of deals and other sawn lumber are as follows:—

For Europe.....	2,420,000 Sup. feet.
" United States.....	2,260,000 "
" West Indies.....	594,000 "

The number of sugar box shooks shipped for Cuba is as follows:—

Sept. 1 to March 6.....	63,045
Since.....	6,595

Total..... 69,640

## SHIPPING.

The following is a list of the vessels in port, with their tonnage and destinations:—

Richard Hutchinson, 733, Penarth Roads, or E. C. Ireland.
Maria Aistrup, 332, Bristol Channel, or E. C. I.
Oliver Emery, 623, Bristol Channel, or E. C. I.
John Black, 645, W. C. England, E. C. I., or Glasgow.
Kato Sancton, 677, East Coast Ireland.
Herbert Beech, 1,061, Liverpool.
Our Annie, 364, discharging.
3110, 654, W. C. England or E. C. I.
Bachelors, 655, —
Brothers, 537, —

## CHICAGO.

MARCH 23.—The *Northwestern Lumberman* says that the moderate views as to values, held