# Trade Notes.

### Canadian.

THE outlook for building operations in Montreal during the coming summer is unusually bright.

IT is stated that thousands of tons of ore are ready for shipment at Kingston as soon as navigation opens.

On the 2nd inst., twenty-five men left Eganville for up the Bonnechere, to work on Barnet & Mackay's drive, when it commences.

THE new mill about to be put in operation by the Messrs. Gilmour, at Trenton, will give employment to about 200 men, in addition to the large force already employed by them.

THE Augur shipping company of Montreal, which already owns fifteen barges and two steamers, suitable for the Ottawa lumber trade, are negotiating for the purchase of two new barges with a capacity of 250,000 feet each.

Mr. D. R. MacLeod, of Quebec, bought recently the spruce deals to be cut at Montmorenci mills this year for Messrs. Bryant, Powis & Bryant, who recently purchased the pine deals referred to a few days since. Large purchases have also been made by a Quebec firm of spruce deals at Cap St. Ignace and river Ouelle. The prices are not yet known, but are understood to fully sustain recent quotations.—*Industrial World.*

Mr. W. J. Macaulay, formerly of Winnipeg, is erecting a new saw-mill at Keewatin, near that already erected by the Keewatin Lumber Company. It will have a capacity of eight million feet. By making a cut about 275 feet in length from the Lake of the Woods across a ridge to a pond, a head of 17 feet of water is obtained. Mr. Macaulay had 75 men at work in the woods this winter and will take out about four million feet.

THE Windsor *Mail* says:—"We hear that a stock company of about $200,000 capital is talked of in Windsor, for the purpose of manufacturing agricultural implements. As the sale of these goods is large, and always on the increase, we have no doubt of the success of the undertaking. We have heard it stated that at least $150,000 worth of agricultural implements have been sold in nova Scotia in one year, and there is no reason why such a large amount of money should not remain in the province. We look anxiously for further developments."

THE Perth *Expositor* says:—B. Caldwell & Son will cut 100,000 feet of square timber in the township of Canonto, Frontenac county, to be sent down the Madawaska. They did not cut last season. Hillard & Dickson, of the same locality, will take out about the same amount. B. Caldwell & Son will cut 400,000 feet of square timber, to 150,000 last season. The yield of sawn lumber on the Mississippi will be from twenty to twenty-five million feet, about the same quantity as last season. On the Clyde, in Levant township, county of Lanark, B. Caldwell & Son will cut about 200,000 square feet of timber.

### American.

EXPERIENCED lumbermen concede, says the *Lumberman's Gazette*, that this winter's log cut in Wisconsin will not exceed that of last season.

A STEAM mill, 40x128 feet, containing, besides other machinery, a rotary, for long timber, and eight shingle mills, is nearly completed at Van Buren, Me.

Lumber rates from Stevens' Point are as follows. To Missouri river points, $78.20; to East St. Louis, $61.20; to St. Paul and Minneapolis, $36.00; to Milwaukee, $29.00. This is per car load of 24,000 pounds.

The Stillwater (Minn.) *Gazette* says: It is claimed on good authority that the lumber crop for the present year will not be as large in proportion to the number of men employed as was that of last season. The reason is said to be too much dry snow, which makes hauling hard.

FIVE new glass works were started in Ohio last year, and several more will be added this year. The latest official statistics give 19 firms engaged in glass manufacture, with 32 furnaces, having 292 pots, and employing 2,032 men. In the production of window glass there are employed seven furnaces with 66 pots; flint glass, 19 furnaces with 199 pots; green glass, four furnaces with 27 pots.

The Clearfield (Penn.) County *Times* is moved to say: That there will be more timber put into the river, and if possible got to market, this season than for several years, is now disputed. The indications now are that the demand will be up to the supply, at least so far as the product of this region goes. The present outlook has ample time to change, however, during the next 60 days, and lumbermen who fail to get down on the first floods may get caught in a reduction of price caused by a glut in the lumber market.

THE value of Erie canal tonnage last year was $200,000,000. The wheat acreage of the west, which principally made this business, was more than 2,500,000 acres more than in 1879, and a like increase of acreage is expected this year. Although the paid tolls on the canal of $113,000 a year were abolished, the toll receipts have leaped up to nearly $300,000. The cost of keeping up the canal is nearly $900,000, and the revenues last year were $1,200,000, making a surplus of over $300,000. Before the State of New York discriminated in favor of the canals their business had run down 600,000 tons in twelve months; and since that liberalizing of rates the canals do 2,000,000 tons more business, and there has been a consequent lowering of tolls on the railroads. The Erie canal is almost the only corrective agency of high grain freights from the west. *American Exchange.*

The Bangor (Me.) *Commercial* gives place to the following. Last fall, when lumber was bringing a good price, it was thought that with the coming winter there would be a general rush for the woods, and that every man who could haul a log on the rollway would do so. Others predicted that in consequence of the immense cut, lumber would sell at ruinous prices in the spring, and many of the operators would suffer financially. This may be partially true as regards the Penobscot, but on the Upper St. John it is wide of the mark, for it is estimated that the amount of logs cut on the Aroostook, Tobique and the small streams in their vicinity will not exceed 25,000,000 feet. Then, again, it is a poor way to figure the supply at market next year from the cut in the woods, for the drives may be hung up, as they often have been, and possibly, leave a not over large supply available.

### British.

The deliveries at the Surrey Commercial Docks were very heavy last week, consisting of no less than 5,249 standards of sawn wood and 73,800 feet of timber, as against 4,165 standards and 38,200 feet respectively during the corresponding week of last year. The total quantity, however, for the five weeks is still very much below the figures of 1880.

The importation last year into the United Kingdom, without taking into account staves or mahogany, consisted of 310,338,900 cubic ft. of hewn and sawn wood, or nearly 3,725,000,000 super ft. To form an idea of this stupendous quantity, it may be mentioned that there would be a sufficient number of blocks 1 ft. cube, if placed end to end, to stretch a girdle twice round the earth, and leave almost a sufficient number over to extend through the centre of it.

Liverpool seems to have been very much overcharged with imported wood towards the end of last season. Messrs. Coltart & Co. placed the excess at 45 per cent. over the previous year, but Messrs. Farnworth & Co. reckon it to be 53 per cent. in their circular of 31st January, noticed in our last, and state that the stock on hand is greater now by 13 per cent. than the average of the last seven years.

The sum of the whole matter is that the prospects of trade are very good, but the timber market is in that kind of sensitive state which would be likely to render speculative importation a very risky experiment. Things may go down, but there is at present no indication of a rise.

Quotations are being made, it is said, for Quebec yellow pine at £17 10s. for 1st, £11 10s. for 2nd, and £6 for 3rd, per Petersburg standard, free on board. For spruce, St. John and Miramichi shipment, £4 10s. is, we believe, asked; while for Riga goods the figures are put down at £7 for full 11 in. crown, although a little time back £7 5s. was asked, and for 3x9 and 3x10½ to £6 10s. to £6.15s. free on board. —*Timber Trades Journal.*

## BRITISH AND AMERICAN TRADE WITH CANADA.

The trade and navigation returns for the Dominion of Canada, which were made up for the past fiscal year and laid on the table of the House of Commons at Ottawa on the 27th of January last, are quite as favorable as our own, and show an increasing trade with the mother country, in comparison of that with other nations, which it is very pleasant to see.

Our friends out there are fond of exciting our apprehensions by threatening to let the United States have all their timber (more than half, they generally tell us, is already set apart for them), if we do not relax our purse-strings and pay better prices than we are accustomed to do for their staple articles of wood traffic, pine and spruce, which have been getting very scarce (on paper) for the past ten years, but in reality pouring into this country faster and at a cheaper rate the last year or two than ever before.

But in point of fact these returns reveal to us by the test of figures that the United States, so far from superseding the British demand by their requirements from Canada, do not by any means keep pace with us. It was easily proved from the Custom House returns of the entries and clearances at Quebec, Montreal, and the Saguenay, that the deliveries by sea to the United States ports bore no sort of comparison to those for the United Kingdom, but there was always the traffic across the river and by the lakes to fill the imagination of buyers on this side of the Atlantic with untold millions of loads making their exit from the Dominion by routes of which the ports of entry on the St. Lawrence took no note. But the trade returns of a country grasp the statistics of the business done at every outlet or inlet of the Dominion, and by those now before us we are enabled to compare the respective values of their American and their British trade, as they really stand to the people of Canada.

The total value of the exports of the Dominion last year was only twice exceeded since its Confederation, and that was in the wildly speculative years 1873 and 1874, when everybody thought they were on the high road to prosperity because, whatever price goods sold for during the first of those years, the buyer was willing to contract for similar goods at some advance for the year following; such at least was the case with the timber trade, till 1875 came and dispelled the illusion. However, not only has the trade again resumed the activity of its best days, but the exports last year from the Dominion, for the first time in its history, exceeded the value of the imports, which means just this, that in a national point of view it is taking more money than it is spending, and therefore doing its trade at a good profit.

The amount of the excess over the imports was $1,421,711, and over the goods entered for consumption $1,612,910. The total receipts from import and export duties collected at the Custom Houses were $14,138,849, and the aggregate trade of the Dominion shows an increase in business done with the United Kingdom over that of the previous year (1879) $13,018,438, and a decrease in that with the United States of America $8,207,863, than which we require no better evidence of the increasing importance to Canada of its British trade in comparison with that of the United States, the difference being in favor of this country by nearly four and a quarter millions sterling. These statistics are worth recording for future reference as often as we are admonished that the United States are going to buy up all our Canadian timber, as they are earnestly entreated to do in self-defence by those writers who, while preaching an impending timber famine, are not indisposed to do a lively business with what remains of the depleted forests, whose extinction, while they predict, they appear so feelingly to lament. After this, we can look without blinking at the forebodings of the coming year; and there is a paragraph in the circular of Messrs. Guy, Bevan & Co., of St. John, N.B., and Miramichi, which bears immediately on the question. After letting us know that the stock of spruce at St. John is only 27,000,000 ft. super, as compared with 79,000,000 the year before, we have the following warning:—

"The large and increasing demand for these in the United States is likely to prevent several mills, which have lately been cutting for the English market, from doing so any longer."

This would be rather alarming if we had not heard the same kind of report with slight variations before, but we require to be told a little more before attaching much importance to the stock on hand at any depot on the opening of the season. Sweden taught us a serious lesson on this particular point of the trade last year. They proved to us, and Englishmen going over there to see for themselves admitted to a certain extent the evidence of it, that the stocks on hand were much shorter than usual to begin the season with, and to remove any expectation that these small stocks were likely to be replenished during the season they remorselessly dried up their rivers in every direction, as far as it was possible for pens and ink to do it. Nevertheless, we never had such a plentiful supply from that country, which began earlier and lasted longer than usual, but not without water floatage, as appears to have been done last year in Sweden. Our Chicago correspondent add the following:—

"The amount already banked probably approximates pretty closely to 50 per cent. of the entire crop, or at least that part of it which it is customary to put in during the winter. Summer operations have become so common now that they are relied upon by many mill-owners to make up any deficiency in their stock, or to increase it if the development of the season makes it desirable to saw more lumber than they intended."

By this little piece of information the eyes of the importers at home should be pretty considerably opened. The year's supply is not, it seems, governed in any way by the quantity of stock on hand at the opening of the season. That may be large or small as it suits the convenience of shippers to lay it in. Last year during the winter great expectations were entertained by shippers, and they bought up all the stock they could in anticipation of a rise in price at the fountain-head; this year they are not quite so sanguine, after filling up to the brim most of their European channels of demand, and they wisely refrain from encumbering themselves with heavy stocks, as there is no apprehension of any scarcity, or any increase of price. We now can fully comprehend the situation. The stocks abroad at the shipping ports are evidently proportioned to the expected demand. The heavy supply in the interior, like the *poste restante*, must wait till called for. —*Timber Trades Journal.*

### Responsibility of Employers.

While a boy of 16 was at work upon a printing press in the press room of a New York paper the press was unexpectedly started. The boy sprang back from his perilous position, and in so doing tipped over the bench he was standing on, causing him to fall against another press, which caught his arm and injured it so as to make it forever useless. He sued the proprietor in the superior court and obtained a verdict for $3,000 damages. The defence was that the accident was caused either by the negligence of the plaintiff or of a fellow workmen, for which the proprietor was not responsible. In charging the jury, Judge Speir said that if the plaintiff or a skilled fellow workman were negligent the plaintiff could not recover damages; but that if the defendant employed persons not skilled in their work and the accident occurred through the negligence of one of such persons, the defendant was responsible. An appeal was taken from the judgment on the grounds that Judge Speir erred in thus charging, and in permitting the plaintiff to exhibit his mutilated arm to the view of the jury, thus arousing their sympathy. The general term has affirmed the judgment in a long opinion written by Judge Freedman and concurred in by Chief Justice Sedgwick.

THE Green Bay *Advocate* says there has probably never been so large an amount of products of our northern forests gotten out and shipped in any winter before as this, particularly cedar posts, railroad ties, and telegraph poles, large quantities of which have been put on the track. Much timber killed by fire has been utilized in this way. There has also been a large amount of cordwood and tan bark gotten out.