

The scarcity of low grade pine is resulting in benefit to hemlock, which is quite active. Manufacturers have more orders than they can fill and are far behind in shipments. Current prices at the mills on the Georgian Bay for two inch stuff are \$12.50 for 12 foot lengths, \$13 for 10 to 16 feet, \$15 for 18 feet, and \$16 for 20 feet. These prices are likely to rule for some time at least.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

An unexpected change in the log drive situation has taken place. While one week ago the indications were that all the new logs would reach the mills, there is now a strong probability that a large percentage of them will be hung up unless rain should check the fall of water in the streams. The St. John river was on the 20th inst. falling rapidly, and it was estimated that 50,000,000 feet of logs would become stranded, at least temporarily. This condition has improved the tone of the lumber market, although dealers are still moving very cautiously in their buying operations. Spruce logs recently sold at Fredericton brought only \$9 per thousand feet, while hemlock sold as low as \$4.

New Brunswick cedar shingles are selling from \$3.25 to \$3.40 for extras on Boston rate of freight, the smaller manufacturers seeming a little nervous and accepting the former price. It is doubtful whether there will be much improvement in the shingle market during the summer months.

UNITED STATES.

The lumber demand in the United States is, as a whole, somewhat disappointing. Country trade is slow, for which the backward crop season is largely responsible, and the activity in the cities is not sufficient to counteract the falling off in country orders. From Buffalo eastward, white pine is held very firmly, as stocks have been reduced below an average, and the freight tie-up on the upper lakes has stopped the movement of lumber to the eastern markets. Sales of white pine are not large nor has the demand assumed as large proportions as was anticipated earlier in the season. At a few points, however, increased buying is reported. In Chicago the lower grades and Norway dimension are selling well, the door factories taking large quantities of common boards. In yellow pine prices are inclined to favor the buyer rather than the producer, the latter being inclined to offer concessions in order to effect sales.

Hardwood stocks are accumulating at

some points, and for the first time this year the tendency of prices appears to be easier. There has been a decline in the price of white quartered oak owing to production being stimulated unduly by the high prices, but at the decline there has been liberal buying. Red and white oak have held up well. Basswood is quoted at \$22 to \$24 at the mills, while ash is in limited supply at \$20 to \$21, and elm at \$20 to \$22. There is a growing demand for birch.

The call for white cedar products is hardly up to the mark. Prices are not satisfactory, although a slight improvement is reported in some items. The demand for poles is about the best feature of the market. Cedar ties are meeting with increased enquiry, but cedar shingles are very dull.

GREAT BRITAIN.

For the first four months of this year the imports of sawn lumber into the United Kingdom were 651,509 loads, as against 732,726 loads for the corresponding period of 1903. During the month of April only 181,756 loads were imported, compared with 320,373 loads in the same month last year. The latter imports have been very beneficial to the market, and while the reduction in stocks is proceeding very slowly, the situation is healthier than at any previous time this year. The decline in prices of Swedish deals and battens has been quite marked, but it is now believed to have culminated and a moderate recovery would seem to be the order, particularly as the consumption of lumber is steadily improving. Business for c.i.f. delivery is also more active, and the basis of prices is better understood. The competition of Baltic lumber affected Canadian spruce and Norway pine disastrously, but the prices of white pine are holding up remarkably well, and the indications are that buyers will advance their figures in order to obtain a supply of the higher grades of pine which are so essential for some purposes. More disposition is being shown to operate in Quebec spruce with a view to supplying the wants of the box trade and other customers, and the feeling in regard to this lumber is less pessimistic. A few importers have purchased considerable quantities of New Brunswick spruce, there being a good demand for the smaller sizes.

A GOOD SALESMAN.

If you have lumber for sale an advertisement in Wanted and For Sale Department of this paper is the best salesman you can employ.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The Steamer Sarmatian is loading a cargo of deals at Halifax, N. S., for the United Kingdom.

The Crow's Nest Pass Lumber Company, of Wardner, B.C., have secured the Baker timber lease above St. Mary's Lake.

The following vessels are loading lumber for South America: Golden Rod and Swansea, at Hantsport, N. S.; Louvima, at Annapolis, N.S.

E. A. LaBel, of Sarnia, has secured the contract of supplying the ties and poles for the extension of the electric street railway to Weesback.

British Columbia red cedar shingles are worth from \$3.20 to \$3.25 for Extras, and \$4 to \$4.10 for Perfections, Boston delivery. An early advance is not anticipated.

The second lumber vessel to reach North Tonawanda, N.Y., this season was the steamer Mohegan, carrying 1,200,000 feet of white pine, valued at \$27,000, for White, Rider & Frost.

Robert Gass, of Shubenacadie, cut 4,500,000 feet of lumber during last season. He has taken up a large tract of timber land in Labrador, where he will commence operations this summer.

The Commissioner of Lands and Works, Victoria, B.C., is asking for tenders up to June 8 for a license to cut timber on a limit situated on Vancouver Island, known as Lot 623 and 624, Clayoquot district, containing 11,234 acres.

The unmarked logs from the drift drive were sold at St. John, N. B., last week. The merchantable spruce, about 47,000 feet, was purchased by Randolph & Baker at \$7.20 per thousand, the cedar and pine by Murray & Gregory at \$3, and the hemlock by John E. Moore at the same figure.

Under date of May 7th Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company, of Barbadoes, say that considerable inroads have been made in stocks lately, and while dealers cannot be said to be bare, they think moderate arrivals of both white pine and spruce would bring fair prices. They value first arrivals of former at \$25 to \$26 to shippers, \$20 to \$21 for second quality; spruce at from \$19 to \$20. A lot of 158,000 Gaspe shingles, ex "Dahome", were sold at \$6.10 for 100,000, the balance bringing \$7.20. This latter price cannot be regarded as a criterion of value, but as shingles are still scarce, the former price could be obtained for further shipments. There have not been any arrivals of

Dimension, and these would bring remunerative prices if quantities were not large. Cedar Laying are not in as great demand as former descriptions, and are valued the vicinity of \$2.15 for fair quality.

By the breaking of a boom in White

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