

were anxious to compete for the small parcels, and for these values took a somewhat elevated range. 3rd Dram white batters, for instance, that pro rata with other descriptions would have been no great catch at £4, went 20s. higher.

Comparing one week's prices with another, the variation is unimportant. Deals may show a 5s. or 10s. improvement to day, and the next occasion a corresponding drop, and so on; though, on the whole, the stationary attitude of values from the commencement of the year up to the present time is somewhat remarkable, and can be attributed solely to the uncertainty surrounding things generally. There is a lot of private business doing, but nothing like the trade that ought to be going on at the opening of a new season. The mildness of the weather has been all in favor of the consumption, yet we hear of stocks hanging on hand almost everywhere. The dock deliveries themselves are a sufficient indication of the slackness of trade. Week by week they go on without even keeping pace with last year's demand, and those recorded in the present number of the *Journal* seem to show that no beneficial effect has been felt in the market yet from the large Government orders for deals and sleepers.

The latter article would have little or no effect on the dock deliveries, as it is a description of timber that does not appear in the stocks at Rotherhithe. Still the mere fact of a large demand being made for timber of any kind, coming from an unexpected quarter, might be supposed to have some effect on other descriptions, but the market is dull apparently to all influences; at any rate, we do not see any symptoms of sensitiveness from the present low values which are being realized at public auction.

Things at the Baltic on Thursday went a bit livelier, and though taken throughout no marked advance could be pronounced, several of the parcels submitted fetched better prices than they did a short while back. This was, however, mostly confined to the small odd lots, for which bidding was brisk and buyers plentiful. This, perhaps, foreshadows an improvement, but it has not assumed any tangible shape at present, and that is about all we can say. To convey some idea of the appreciation these odd parcels were held in we may mention a little lot of 3rd white spruce ends, 7 and 8 inch widths, for which £5 10s. was readily forthcoming, and for some 50 pieces of damaged 4th pine; the absurd price of £7 10s. was paid. For the 2nd Quebec spruce, ex Uno, there was some spirited bidding, but prices kept low notwithstanding the presence of the leading representatives of the box-making trade. These latter apparently did not care to go beyond the prices paid by the regular dealers, to whom the bulk of the parcel fell.

St. Petersburg batters sold freely, but at cheap figures. Throughout the sale things moved off pretty freely, and the bidding was fairly brisk; but, if we except the oddments, without improving prices. The Tornea batters, ex Consul, described as 1st and 2nd, went very cheap, and those who bought them cannot have done wrong. The highest price of the sale was for some 3x12 12 ft. Quebec bright pine, which ran up to £27 10s.

There were some heavy parcels of unreserved flooring offered, and for which the competition was of a lively description. The cargo of the *Polante*, from Fredrikstad, one of the leading shipments (Hjornberg's), was keenly competed for by the leading members of the trade, all the big dealers being to the fore. Prices, though slightly better than on the last occasion, went, nevertheless, much under last year's values, and 10s. 6d. was the most the room cared to give for 1x7 yellow, and other sizes at proportionately low rates.

The impression left on the mind, after watching the proceedings closely, was that, if there was no pronounced advancement, things, at any rate, were no worse, with a more general readiness to buy amongst those who were present.

GLASGOW.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of Feb. 28th says:—The timber trade during the past week at Clyde ports has been singularly quiet. There have been no arrivals except some small

parcels of state staves, and no auction sales have taken place.

The local demand presently seems to be rather languid, but some may be looking forward to supplying themselves at the sale of American timber and deals; to be held at Greenock on 5th prox.

Apart from what has gone into shipbuilders' hands, the deliveries from Greenock of timber in rafts are not far short this year to date compared with corresponding period last year—say 140 loads less. What is received in this way at Broomielaw crane is taken up mostly for house-building purposes.

Scarcely any change is reported as having taken place in shipbuilding. As regards the Government contracts, the Lords of the Admiralty a few evening ago intimated that they have lost no time in completing the specifications in more detail than formerly, and in accordance with the recommendations of the committee which had recently reported on contracts and repairs.

Six torpedo cruisers are included in the contract, decision as to which is now awaited, and in the course of a fortnight the Admiralty expects to be in a position to again invite tenders, this time for the belted cruisers, and the two ironclads, and offers will be immediately called for the construction of ten powerful torpedo boats.

At the annual meeting of the Shipowners' Association, held here a few days ago, the chairman mentioned he was sorry he could not congratulate the shipowners on the present condition of the trade; there was too much tonnage everywhere afloat, and at all the important ports of the world competition for employment was such as to compress rates to unremunerative figures.

FROM THE LOGGERS.

Reports from most of the logging districts of the Northwest are to the effect that the recent rise in temperature has materially improved the roads, and made the concluding operations of the season more easy. In some isolated cases, however, the melting process has gone so far that the roads are nearly bare. In central Wisconsin the camps are beginning to break up, and the great bulk of the log crop is in. Some of the loggers in that district are coming out with no more, or less, than the amount intended, but others are doing such good work that the fear is expressed that they may overstep the mark. From the Saginaw district and from both shores of Lake Michigan comes confirmation of an actual curtailment in the crop, equal to that anticipated at the beginning of the season. The Black river also sends the cheering intelligence that the crop is likely to fall below the estimates. The Mississippi district is still in doubt, and far sighted operators are hoping that the warm and thawing weather may continue. Much still depends on the weather. If it should be cold roads would generally be in better shape for hauling them than at any previous time during the winter, and, in that case, many camps, particularly in the jobbing districts, would go briskly on with work. It is to be hoped that spring will speedily come. — *Northwestern Lumberman.*

Navigation of Lake Michigan.

MILWAUKEE, March 9.—The steamer *Wisconsin* arrived from Grand Haven last evening. This is the first boat to arrive from the east shore for a month. She sighted several steamer fast in the ice. One is supposed to be the *Onida*, two days out from Grand Haven, and another the *City of Ludington*, which has been fast in the ice for 22 days.

Advice to Mothers.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain and cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind, colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female nurses and physicians in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle.

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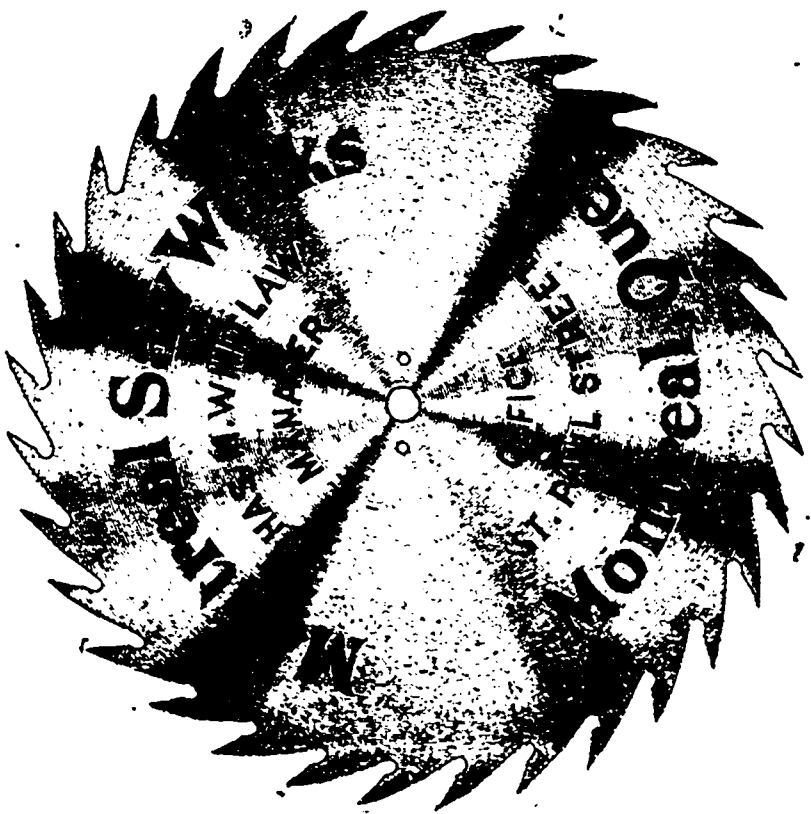
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