

some time ago, prices not transpired. Sales of various shipments were made, prices ranging for thirds, 4½d. to 5d.; fourths, 3d. to 4½d per foot 9x3.

**SPRUCE DEALS.**—Imports: 21,035 pieces. The arrivals have been Ilas and India, from the Baltic; Sardomene, from New York; and ex steamers, from Sydney. The Ilas comes to the order of one of the trade, and has gone direct into stock. Sales have been, ex Wave King, General Butler and India, at 3d to 3½d per foot 9x3.

**OREGON TIMBER.**—Imports: 2,314,816 feet super. The arrivals have been City of Brooklyn and Lakeside, from Burrard's Inlet; and Quickstep, from Tacoma. The City of Brooklyn and Quickstep's cargoes have been sold privately, prices withheld. The C. C. Funk's cargo was sold on 2nd inst., from £5 to £5 10s., average £5 3s 10d, per 1,000 feet super; and on the same date the General Butler's, at from £4 17s 6d to £5 12s 6d, average £5 4s 6d.

**LUMBER.**—Imports: Clear pine, 89,373 feet super. The arrivals have been, Sardomene and Lucy A. Nickels, from New York; and Albany, from Adelaide. Offerings by auction have been unusually heavy, and prices show a decline on last month's rates. We quote clear pine at £12 5s to £14 6s; shelving, £8 to £11 2s 6d; Canadian white pine, £6 7s 6d to £3 2s 6d.

**REDWOOD.**—Imports: 323,507 feet super. The only arrival during the month has been the Alice Muir, from San Francisco, which is now in course of landing. The parcel ex C. C. Funk, and balance ex Grace Roberts, were sold at £9 to £8 7s 6d.

**FLOORING AND WEATHERBOARDS.**—Imports: 12,670,698 feet lineal. The arrivals have been exceedingly heavy, and a considerable decline has to be recorded. We quote—Red, 6x1½, 9s 3d to 9s 9d; 6x1½, 7s 9d to 8s; 6x1½, 6s 6d to 6s 9d; 6x1½, 4s 8d to 4s 9d; 4-out red weatherboards, 4s 9d; white, 6x1½, 9s 3d to 9s 6d; 6x1½, 7s 6d; 6x1½, 6s 6d; 6x1½, 4s 8d to 4s 10d; 4-out weatherboards, 4s 10d to 5s.

**KAURI PINE.**—Imports: 833,182 feet super. The arrivals have been—Ensign, Presto and Yolandi, from Kaipara. Sales by auction have been of shipments ex Noatun and Cabafeld, prices showing a decline on last month's rates.

**PITCH PINE.**—Imports: Nil. A small parcel of 10 ip. T. & G., ex Beaconsfield, was offered at auction on 9th inst., but bidding not being up to limits it was withdrawn.

**CEDAR.**—Imports: 131,900 feet super. This parcel arrived ex Sydney steamers. Spec interest was manifested at the sale on the 2d inst. of the first shipment of logs, ex Diamond, from New Guinea, which sold fairly well from 37s 6d to 11s according to size of logs.

**DOORS.**—Imports: 1,749. The arrivals have been the Ederside, from San Francisco, via Sydney, and Sardomene, from New York. Both parcels have been placed privately, at satisfactory prices.

**LATHS AND PICKETS.**—Imports: Laths, 17,983 bundles; pickets, 5,890 bundles. Notwithstanding the heavy arrivals, prices show an advance on last month's rates.

**SLATES.**—Imports: 688,170. The arrivals have been—America, from Liverpool; Wellington, from Launceston; Sardomene and Lucy A. Nickels, from New York. Imports excessive, and prices have declined fully 10 per cent. on last month's rates.

**PLASTER.**—Imports: 2,260 barrels. This parcel arrived ex Sardomene and Lucy A. Nickels, and has been sold privately. We quote best brands 12s to 13s.

**CEMENT.**—Imports: 9,930 barrels. Favorite brands have been sold at up to 13s.

**GALVANIZED IRON.**—Imports: 537 tons. We report a sale privately of an invoice of Davis' 26 gauge, 5-feet to 10-feet, at £16 10s. We quote Orb brand at £16 10s.

**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 ft. super; Kauri pine and cedar logs at per 100 ft. super; laths, pickets and slates at per 1,000 pieces. Shorts are all lengths under 12 feet.

**BEADRY, CHAMPAIGN & Co.'s mill,** at Muskegon lake expect this spring to allow a log.

## LONDON.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of April 17th says:—Messrs. Churchill & Sim's catalogue on Wednesday hardly drew such a big room as we expected. There was a fair gathering, but no crowding, and the stimulus to bidding, which the late opening of the Baltic ports engendered, had been palpably damped by the information conveyed in our Swedish correspondent's letter, published last week, that the ice was thawing rapidly, and the ports were likely to be open a month earlier than anticipated. This is not very cheering news to those who have been acquiring stock at the public sales in the expectation that the month would pass off without any fresh arrivals, and the announcement made that some of the first-open water steamers were already able to prosecute their voyage could hardly fail to operate unfavorably.

The cypress timber from Wilmington, ex Fidelio, with which Wednesday's sale was introduced, went apparently low. This timber is said to be in good repute in America, where, we understand, they use it, got a wonderful bargain.

The present lamentable cargo prices of pitch pine are partly due to the suicidal policy of Scandinavian shipowners in sending their vessels out seeking to the southern ports, when they must have known by past experience that the shippers would have them entirely at their mercy. Of course this was a great windfall to the shippers, who have no alternative but to look to the low freights to give them a chance of getting out at cost, and would, of course, take every advantage of those seekers being on the spot to regulate the rates.

The market here is completely glutted on all sides, and, unless the supply is curtailed some way or another, a greater fall in prices will assuredly take place.

When the pine and spruce parcels came under offer, buyers did not betray any more anxiety, and the reputed scarcity of some of the sizes evidently has not been felt in the market yet. As a matter of fact, everybody is full of everything, and we look in vain for the advance so confidently predicted at the nativity of the present year.

The most noticeable feature of the first day's sale was the absence of Petersburg goods, only a little lot of white representing that important wood-shipping place. The interest of the sale seemed to centre around the pine and spruce parcels. The goods ex Kalliope, of the latter description went very low for Quebec stuff; in fact all the 3rd appeared out of favor. The 9/10 ft. planks ex Betty falling at £5 15s. is a damper for those who are looking to see things improve. However the goods were not the best samples of the port, they represented; and, though we do not wish to convey any false impression to the actual state of values, we doubt not but that if really prime sorts came under offer the result would be less discouraging.

The fact of the market being so overdone with white spruce will remain an incurable evil as long as trade continues at its present dead level, and the big cargo of lower port stuff now discharging in the Surrey Commercial docks could hardly have come to a worse market, unless the great Mersey city had been selected.

The stereotyped phrase—things going very quiet—was applicable to Messrs Churchill & Sim's second day's doings, and it was apparent from the feebleness of prices that the demand had not yet shown signs of improving. The bidding was slow.

The Quebec lots were better appreciated, and the lot of second broads ex Ilus 12 feet which opened at £11, but eventually fell at £18 (1884 cutting), were not dear. Spruce, like the day before, appeared to hang fire considerably, but, as a buyer remarked, how can it be otherwise when nobody wants any? £6 10s for 3rd Quebec 3x11 is a not very satisfactory record, but, as we did not see the stuff, cannot pronounce it either cheap or dear. Like the rest of the public sales lately, the seller had to hold the worst end of the stick. It is a satisfaction that, if prices are no better, they recede only to a very slight degree, which is an implication that with a genuine inquiry any upward movement will take a solid form.

Stocks at the outports are heavy, and the

low sales yet effected to many places must leave a considerable quantity of unplaced stock yet to be dealt with. The leading brands are mostly placed, no doubt, and to secure their specifications the outports, and probably some of the London trade as well, have paid the full figures; but, having suited themselves in this way, they are unlikely to do more till the position of the market is more assured.

## LIVERPOOL.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of April 17th says:—Beyond the interest involved in the public sales held during the latter portion of last week, there has been very little animation shown in the market. In the retail trade consumers are evidently still pursuing the same line of business they have followed for months past, and will only take what they want for pressing and immediate wants. In the wholesale branch a similar line of policy seems to be pursued, and therefore the sellers of goods to arrive on contract are having an extremely hard time of it at present, as buyers still continue to exercise the greatest amount of caution in entering into any engagements for the future. They are fortified in adopting this course by the continued depression in the freight market, which still rules extremely low from the St. Lawrence, New Brunswick and Nova Scotian ports, and also from pitch pine ports.

From St. John, N. B., we see that charters to Liverpool have been effected at about 43s 9d per standard for deals, and 18s and 19s per load for pine and birch timber, respectively, for London 40s. per standard, and the Bristol Channel 41s 3d to 42s 6d per std.

On Friday, the 9th inst. Messrs. Price & Pierce offered by public auction the cargo of hewn pitch pine timber, just arrived per Cleve-land, from Mobile. The inclemency of the weather, perhaps, militated against a large attendance, yet the local trade was fairly well represented, and we venture to think as much was obtained for the cargo as its quality and the present depressed condition of business could have led any one to anticipate.

The parcels per Maracas and Baron Anderson failed to elicit a bid, and consequently were withdrawn.

Messrs. Farnworth & Jardine's sale of spruce deals on Thursday last was fairly attended by the local trade; but, from the apathy displayed by those present, it was evident that the company present was attracted more by curiosity than from any desire to buy. This was shown by the fact that lot after lot was passed without eliciting any bid whatever; the only sales made were:

St. John spruce deals, ex Nettie Murphy.		Per Cent. std.
		£ s. d.
21 ft. & up	3x11	7 5 0
9 "	2½x7	7 2 5
9 to 23 ft. & up	3x8	5 12 6
Ex Countess of Yarmouth:		
9 ft. & up	7 in. & up	£4 10 0 4 7 6

## ALBANY.

Quotations at the yards are as follows:—

Pine, clear, ½ M.	35 00/00 00
Pine, fourths	50 00/45 0
Pine, select	42 00/47 00
Pine, good box	22 00/33 00
Pine, common box	13 00/15 00
Pine, 10-in. plank, each	00 45/00 47
Pine, 10-in. plank, culls, each	00 25/00 27
Pine boards, 10-in.	00 30/00 32
Pine, 10-in. boards, culls	00 10/00 20
Pine, 12-in. boards, 10 ft., ½ M.	23 00/132 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 10 ft.	23 00/132 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 13 ft.	23 00/00 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, select	49 00/43 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, common	15 00/15 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, select	49 00/43 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, common	15 00/15 00
Spruce, boards, each	00 00/00 16
Spruce, plank, 1½-in., each	00 00/00 20
Spruce, plank, 2½-in., each	00 00/00 30
Spruce, wall strips, each	00 12/00 12
Hemlock, boards, each	00 00/00 14
Hemlock, joist, 4½, each	00 00/00 32
Hemlock, joist, 2½, each	00 00/00 14
Hemlock, wall strips, 2½, each	00 00/00 11
Black walnut, good, ½ M.	100 00/100 00
Black walnut, 2 inch	80 00/00 00
Black walnut, 1 inch	60 00/00 00
Sycamore, 1-inch	25 00/30 00
Sycamore, 1-inch	25 00/30 00
White wood, 1-inch and thicker	34 00/44 00
White wood, 1-inch	25 00/30 00
Ash, good, ½ M.	25 00/43 00
Ash, second quality, ½ M.	22 00/43 00
Cherry, good, ½ M.	60 00/43 00
Cherry, common, ½ M.	25 00/43 00
Oak, good, ½ M.	20 00/43 00
Oak, second quality, ½ M.	20 00/43 00
Basswood, ½ M.	25 00/43 00
Hickory, ½ M.	40 00/40 00

Maple, Canada, ½ M.	28 00/30 00
Maple, American, per M.	26 00/28 00
Chestnut, ½ M.	38 00/40 00
Shingles, shaved, pine, ½ M.	0 00/0 50
2nd quality	0 00/0 50
extra, sawed, pine	4 30/4 50
clear	0 00/0 8 00
cedar, mixed	0 00/0 2 50
cedar, XXX	0 00/0 0 00
hemlock	2 25/2 37
Lath, hemlock, ½ M.	0 00/0 2 13
Lath, spruce	0 00/0 2 25

## BUFFALO.

We quote cargo lots:—

Uppers	445 00/46 00
Common	17 00/18 00
Culls	12 50/13 00

## TONAWANDA.

CARGO LOTS—MICHIGAN INSPECTION.	
Three uppers	442 00/44 00
Common	18 00/24 00
Culls	10 00/13 00

## WOOD-WORKING PATENTS.

The following list of patents relating to the wood-working interests, granted by the United States Patent Office, April 18th, 1886, is specially reported by Franklyn H. Hough, solicitor of American and Foreign patents, 925 F. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

- 339,864—Log turner—W. W. Coyle, Springfield, Ohio.  
 339,872—Plane, bench—J. P. Gage, Vine-land, N. J.  
 339,877—Planing machine—W. H. Gray, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 339,728—Saw, band—E. C. Atkins, Indianapolis, Ind.  
 339,797—Saw mill, band—J. W. Maxwell, Louisville, Ky.  
 340,016—Saw swago—A. Storens, Wausau, Wis.  
 340,051—Saw tooth—A. Krieger, Columbus, Ohio.  
 339,608—Shingle machines, feed mechanism for—W. L. Purves, Waddington, N. Y.  
 PATENTS ISSUED APRIL 20.  
 340,207—Lathe—A. Gordon, Hamilton, Ohio.  
 340,335—Lathes, work supporter for—E. Zimmermann, New York, N. Y.  
 340,312—Log skidding and loading machine—H. N. Hewlett, Oscoda, Mich.  
 340,444—Resawing machine—I. R. Joelin, New York, N. Y.  
 340,491—Saw mill dog—N. J. Cushman, North Paris, Me.  
 340,097—Sawing machine, scroll—E. Collins, New York, N. Y.

## New Zealand Fungus.

A curious trade has sprung up of late years in a peculiar kind of fungus that grows on the trees in the North Island of New Zealand, and which is exported exclusively to China. The uses to which it is applied do not seem to be well known. In 1837 the British authorities at Hong Kong said it was "much prized by the Chinese community as a medicine administered in the shape of a decoction to purify the blood, and was also used on fast days with a mixture of vermicelli and bean-cured instead of animal food." Subsequent information shows that it is used in soups as ordinary food, and it is also used as a dye. The exports during the past ten years have grown from £1927 to £18,339, but the increase has not been uniform. The gathering of the fungus is probably one of the vagabond industries; if so the irregularity is easily accounted for. The exports in 1884 were 6357 cwt., valued at £11,079.

## Wood Products in Chemistry.

It appears from the experiment of M. Senff, that the yield of crude pyrolytic acid, tar, charcoal, and gas is almost the same with the most different woods. But the richness of the acid waters in acetic acid, and consequently the yield of dehydrated acid, vary greatly. In this respect the wood of coniferous trees is the least valuable. The wood of the trunk furnishes more acid than that of the branches. The wood yields more acid than the bark, and sound wood more than dead wood. Rapid calcination yields more gas at the expense of the condensed products and of the charcoal; it yields also the weakest acid waters, and the charcoal is more hygroscopic than that furnished by a gradual action.—*Timber.*