

Market Reports.

MONTREAL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Dec. 21.—The weather for the past two weeks has been very cold accompanied with a good deal of snow which has made good country roads and has been favorable for lumber operations. There is no change to note in the way of business which is, as usual at this season, very quiet. Many lumbermen are still taking stock; prices are now as low as they will be and as this winter will not likely be as many logs made this winter as usual, the prospects for the future, even if the demand in the United States is not any better than it was during the past year, are very fair. The lumbermen on the Ottawa who manufacture for the United States trade will not make as many logs, but as the deal business in England was very good this year and apparently appears good for the future, those manufacturers who make deals will no doubt get their usual quantity of logs. The building trade in Montreal will be very good during the coming year, it is said many dwelling houses comparatively will be erected as there are not many vacant houses of a desirable size in the city. We quote prices ex yard as follows:—

Pine, 1st quality, 2 M.	\$35 00@40 00
Pine, 2nd, 2 M.	22 00@24 00
Pine, shipping culls, 2 M.	14 00@16 00
Pine, 4th quality deals, 2 M.	10 00@12 00
Pine, mill culls, 2 M.	7 00@9 00
Spruce, 2 M.	10 00@13 00
Hemlock, 2 M.	9 00@10 00
Ash, run of log culls out, 2 M.	20 00@25 00
Base, 2 M.	12 00@15 00
Oak, 2 M.	40 00@50 00
Walnut 2 M.	60 00@100 00
Cherry, 2 M.	60 00@80 00
Butternut, 2 M.	25 00@30 00
Birch, 2 M.	20 00@25 00
Hard Maple, 2 M.	25 00@35 00
Lath, 2 M.	1 75@2 00
Shingles, 1st, 2 M.	3 00@4 00
Shingles, 2nd, 2 M.	2 50@3 00

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

Our latest lumber advices from Liverpool state that the imports for the month of November were unusually small being only 202,000 feet of all kinds of timber, against 1,093,000 feet for the same month last year, and 449,000 feet the previous year, and of all kinds of deals and boards 5,173 standards against 14,232 standards for same month last year. The consumption has been fully up to expectations, but stocks held are still heavy. Private sales of Halifax spruce deals are reported at from £5 11s. 3d. to £5 12s. 6d. per standard ex quay, Miramichi pine timber at from 12½d. to 13d. per foot ex quay, spruce deals from Dorchester and P. you were offered at auction, but a quantity withdrawn, the prices realized were for 3x11 £6 12s. 6d., 3x9 £5 15s. to £6, 3x7 £3 7s. 6d. to £5 10s. per standard.

TORONTO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Dec. 24.—All the retail yards are quiet and most of the lumber arriving by rail during the last two weeks did not find a market, and had to be piled in the railroad yards waiting for customers. This will not, however, continue. Arrivals by rail during the winter promises to be light, most of the large mill yards being nearly cleaned out. There is quite sufficient lumber of most kinds piled in the various rail road and retail yards to meet all demands likely to be made on the dealers here during the entire winter. The amount left on the docks, however, is considerably less than last year, but will doubtless accumulate considerably during the winter months. Figures for carload lots have ruled lower during the last two weeks on account of push sales to avoid unloading along-side cars.

The total receipts for the season fall short of the previous year as anticipated, still the showing is fully up to expectations. The full receipts are as follows:—Pine lumber all grades 101,500,000 feet, as against 132,000,000 for 1883, showing a decrease of 31,500,000 feet. The shipments from the docks is 38,000,000 feet as against 52,000,000 for 1883, a decrease of 14,000,000 feet. The total quantity of shingles received for 1884 6,500,000, 1883 8,000,000, increase 1,500,000, a considerable portion of this increase has however been forwarded on to other points by transshipment or otherwise. Laths

received for 1884, 8,000,000 pieces, as against 10,000,000 pieces for 1883, decrease 2,000,000 pieces. Receipts of hardwood 1884 is 750,000 feet, as against 1,000,000 feet for 1883, showing a decrease of 250,000 feet. The quantity of basswood coming to hand has been about 1,400,000 feet, and of cedar posts, chiefly used for block paving purposes, 3,000 cords. The consumption for our city and suburbs during the present season, presuming the stocks on hand to be about the same as at this period last year, would be about 63,500,000 feet, showing a decrease on our home market of 16,500,000 feet, although it does not necessarily follow that a less amount in dollars and cents has been expended in building operations, but a better class of buildings have been erected and the difference expended in bricks and mortar, neither does it follow that less stocks have been cut at the mills, it shows, however, that a portion of such stocks have sought other outlets.

Now as to the profits from the season's operations. It is patent to all who have taken the trouble to watch the state of lumber market that in four seasons out of five the mill men who dispose of their stocks early fare the best, and the dealers who purchase such early cuts have had in most as many cases to fight against a falling market during the remainder of the season. Our middle men as a rule are much too eager for the fray and start in too early in the season before the market shapes itself, and so have to work hard the entire year, and come out at the end with little but scars. So to follow Artemus Ward and give double advice, I would say to the mill man sell as early as possible, and to the middleman don't be in a hurry. To sum the whole matter up the manufacturer has had much the better end of the pole this season, and the wholesale men will come out with small profits for their season's work, and there are but few men engaged in business who deserve better things, openhearted and generous to a fault, men of large minds, yet harassed by bad debts and designing debtors, working hard and making others and not themselves wealthy, such is the business life, as a rule, of the wholesale lumber dealer.

Mill cull boards and scantling	\$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	12 00
Stocks	14 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.	13 00
" " " 18 ft.	14 00
" " " 20 ft.	15 00
" " " 22 ft.	16 00
" " " 24 ft.	17 00
" " " 26 ft.	18 00
" " " 28 ft.	19 00
" " " 30 ft.	20 00
" " " 32 ft.	21 00
" " " 34 ft.	22 00
" " " 36 ft.	23 00
" " " 38 ft.	24 00
" " " 40 to 44 ft.	25 00
Cutting up planks to dry	24 00
Boards	20 00
Sound dressing stocks	18 00
Picks Am. inspection	23 00@30 00
Three uppers, Am. inspection	35 00@40 00

WINNIPEG.

The Commercial of Dec. 23rd says:—Dealers in this line, like the oars, have hunted for winter quarters. Those who are not in the woods with gangs have no business to keep them moving, as sales of lumber during the past week have not been heard of. The trade is practically asleep for the balance of the winter.

CHICAGO.

AT THE YARDS.

The Northwestern Lumberman of Dec. 27th, says:—Never, perhaps, in the history of the Chicago lumber trade, at least since it became one of magnitude, was it as quiet as now. A depressed season has been succeeded by an unusually cold and stormy December, which has coked up business and driven the stopper in, almost. There is a remnant of business remaining, but as a general thing the district is silent as the yard of a custom saw mill in the country. Nearly all the hands who make the yards lively in the busy season have been laid off for the time being. A few men are retain-

ed to attend to what little business there is doing, and these potter around appearing to be mostly engaged in killing time. A few cars are kept standing on the switches for a show, and once in a while one is loaded; but the "pulls" are few and far between, and the trains are bob tailed. Even the great concerns, like those at the west end of the district, and the manufacturers' yards, are doing very little. One stupendous concern is reported to have shipped but one car load during the week past. If it were not for the local box-worker's demand and the little that is coming from the builders for inside finishing purposes, the yards might about as well shut up shop and their owners go to New Orleans for a month. Though business at the yards is so nearly stagnated, the merchants are looking at the situation with fortitude, and are mostly smothering complaint. In fact, they appear to have expected an unusually quiet time this winter during the latter part of this month, and next.

Just at present the danger of cutting prices is avoided by the fact that few bills are going about for bids. Whas little trade there is comes through mail orders for small lots to patch up assortments, and without the agency of traveling men or the enticement of circular letters and ingeniously contrived lists. All these persuasive means have, for the time, been largely abated. Country merchants are taking account of stock, and it would be useless to ply them with special inducements to buy lumber, even if there were not other reasons why they should refuse to stock up. All things seem to conspire together to stop the movement of lumber until after New Year's, if no longer.

Receipts of lumber, shingles, etc., from Jan. 1st to Dec. 24th as reported from the Lumberman's Exchange:—

	Lumber.	Shingles.
1884.....	2,345,000	742,000
1883.....	2,132,000	353,000
FROM JANUARY 1, 1884, TO DEC. 24, 1884, INCLUSIVE.		
1884.....	1,500,222,000	894,813,000
1883.....	1,882,499,000	1,140,302,000
Decrease.....	62,177,000	245,489,000

LARGE RECEIPTS FROM JAN. 1 TO DEC.

Lumber	1,579,231,000
Shingles	867,335,000
Lath	68,071,000
Posts	2,612,000
Railroad ties	895,909
Wood, cords	25,115
Bark, cords	21,450
Slabs, cords	43,032
Telegraph poles	142,008
Piles	517
Spars	12

STOCK ON HAND DEC. 1.

	1884.	1883.
Lumber & timber	660,936,272	682,771,854
Shingles	330,700,492	449,218,650
Lath	68,905,506	53,701,034
Picks	2,335,858	2,306,681
Cedar posts	571,004	450,875

OSWEGO, N.Y.

From Our Own Correspondent.

No change in quotations and very little doing. The stock held here is very much in excess of any former season.

Three uppers	\$42 00@40 00
Picking	32 00@35 00
Cutting up	22 00@25 00
Fine Common	20 00@22 00
Common	14 00@18 00
Culls	11 00@14 00
Mill run lots	16 00@22 00
Sidings, selected, 1 in	30 00@35 00
" " " 1½ in	32 00@36 00
Mill run, 1x10, 13 to 16 ft.	16 00@21 00
Selected	21 00@24 00
Shippers	14 00@16 00
Mill run 14x10	17 00@20 00
Selected	21 00@23 00
Shippers	14 00@16 00
Mill run, 1 & 1½ in, strips	15 00@18 00
Selected	22 00@23 00
Culls	11 00@13 00
1x7 selected for clapboards	25 00@35 00
Shingles, XXX, 18 in. pine	4 00@4 50
Cedar	3 00@3 50
Lath, No 1	2 00@2 20
No 2	1 75@2 00

TONAWANDA.

CARGO LOTS—MICHIGAN INSPECTION.

Three uppers	\$45 00@40 00
Common	18 00@24 00
Culls	12 00@13 00

BOSTON.

The Journal of Commerce of Dec. 27th says: Business is naturally contracted and slow, partly from the clearing of accounts for the year and in part because the cold and wintry weather has

brought outside building operations to a standstill. The general tone is quiet and steady for desirable grades of lumber, both soft and hard.

CANADA PINE.

selects, Dressed	\$48 00@50 00
Shelving, Dressed, 1st	40 00@42 00
" " " 2nds	33 00@35 00
Dressed Shippers	27 00@29 00
Dressed Box	18 00@20 00
Sheathing, 1st quality	42 00@45 00
" " " 2nd	34 00@35 00

ALBANY.

Quotations at the yards are as follows:—

Pine, clear, 2 M.	\$55 00@60 00
Pine, fourths	50 00@55 00
Pine, selects	45 00@50 00
Pine, good box	22 00@25 00
Pine, common box	13 00@15 00
Pine, 10-in. plank, each	00 42@00 45
Pine, 10-in. plank, culls, each	00 23@00 25
Pine boards, 10-in.	00 28@00 32
Pine, 10-in. boards, culls	00 16@00 21
Pine, 10-in. boards, 16 ft.	23 00@25 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 16 ft.	23 00@25 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 18 ft.	23 00@25 00
Pine, 1½ in. siding, select	40 00@43 00
Pine, 1½ in. siding, common	20 00@20 00
Pine, 1-in. siding, select	42 00@45 00
Pine, 1-in. siding, common	15 00@18 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, 4x6, each	00 00@00 32
Hemlock, joist, 2½x4, each	00 00@00 14
Hemlock, wall strips, 2x4, each	00 00@00 11
Black walnut, good, 2 M.	100 00@120 00
Black walnut, 2 in.	80 00@90 00
Black walnut, 1 in.	00 00@05 00
Scaymore, 1-in.	30 00@32 00
Scaymore, ¾-in.	25 00@25 00
White wood, 1-in. and thicker	38 00@43 00
White wood, ¾-in.	30 00@32 00
Ash, good, 2 M.	40 00@43 00
Ash, second quality, 2 M.	25 00@30 00
Cherry, good, 2 M.	60 00@85 00
Cherry, common, 2 M.	25 00@30 00
Oak, good, 2 M.	40 00@43 00
Oak, second quality, 2 M.	20 00@25 00
Basswood, 2 M.	25 00@30 00
Hickory, 2 M.	40 00@40 00
Maple, Canada, 2 M.	23 00@30 00
Maple, American, per M.	26 00@28 00
Chestnut, 2 M.	38 00@40 00
Shingles, shaved, pine, 2 M.	0 00@3 50
" " " 2nd quality	0 00@5 00
" " " extra, sawed, pine	50¢ 4 50
" " " clear	0 00@3 00
" " " cedar, mixed	0 00@3 30
" " " cedar, XXX	0 00@2 00
" " " hemlock	0 00@2 00
Lath, hemlock, 2 M.	0 00@2 00
Lath, spruce	0 00@2 25

BUFFALO.

We quote cargo lots:—

Uppers	\$45 00@40 00
Common	17 00@18 50
Culls	12 50@13 00

LONDON.

The Timber Trades Journal of Dec. 13th says:—Things on Wednesday at the "Baltic" were not very lively, though there was by no means a bad attendance of the trade. Still, the disposition to accumulate stock so close to the end of the year, when books have to be balanced, can hardly be a very lively one. Hence we were not surprised to see things somewhat weaker than a fortnight ago. The few unreserved parcels of deals probably sold about as well as at the previous sale, but flooring was hardly so well sustained, and there was a decided drop in the one inch stuff submitted; matchlinings, perhaps, were better favored, but plain-edged stuff certainly went unsatisfactorily.

TYNE.

The Timber Trades Journal of Dec. 13th says:—There are very few items in the arrivals of timber calling for any special comment during the last seven days—one cargo from Quebec, one cargo from Danzig, and amongst miscellaneous arrivals a parcel of American doors and laths, per steamer direct from New York. There are none from the Baltic, and with the exception of perhaps a straggling cargo still to come forward it is scarcely likely that the present season will see any more. If not, so much the better, as the stocks on hand, though not large, will certainly be ample for the winter and spring requirements, even if somewhat improved upon by the present.

In best redwood deals there is a scarcity, but the consumption being only small no inconvenience need be felt.

So far there is no improvement to notice in shipbuilding trade, and the demand for goods used in that trade remains very feeble. In yellow pine log timber this is principally felt, and stocks are much too heavy for the prospect.