

## THE NEW CHICAGO LIST.

THE lumber dealers of Chicago, says *The Timberman*, have yielded to the inevitable and advanced their prices. At least they have made a new list. Perhaps strict exactness requires it should be said that they have not so much raised the figures they were getting, as they have made a basis for future advances; for it is certainly a fact that on many grades the meeting attempted to do nothing more than to put into shape prices that have been asked and received for some time back. The item of No. 1 fencing, for example, was not really advanced, though admitted to be the strongest thing on the list. The figure established—\$15.50—has been current in this market for a couple of weeks, and in its last issue *The Timberman* noted the fact that this stock was held by some yards at \$16. So far as fencing goes, the new list merely brings the prices up to the plane that had been reached some days ago by houses that lead the market. And certainly, any conservative man must admit that \$14 for common boards, though it is a distinct rise from previously ruling figures, is not a price for them that can long obtain. They are selling for \$13 by the cargo, including a liberal percentage of culls, which leaves a handling bill for the yards of an even dollar. Lumber cannot be handled on such a margin. The piece stuff list is put in rather better shape. The advance of short lengths to \$12.50 gives the yards about \$2 margin, which will let them out, though it will give them no great profit. But they have not been in the habit of making much money on their dimension stock, and it is probable that most of them will feel very well pleased for the present, to be assured that when they fill a bill of two-inch lumber they are getting back the money they invested in it.

It is well known that the "official" Chicago price lists, so called, have had a bad reputation. They have been known to be unreliable and to be disregarded entirely in the business of selling. But there is reason to believe now that the old order of things has, for the time at any rate, passed away, and that all things relating to these prices have become new. *The Timberman* is inclined to put faith in the new list which has been issued, because it conceives that the prices rest upon a basis of necessity and good business sense. The theory that prices can really be advanced by a price list meeting is exploded. A price list meeting has no such function, as a matter of fact. It cannot make values. It can by inquiry ascertain what values are, and through consultation and by agreement can secure concert of action to the end that the price of lumber and its actual value may be made to correspond. When it undertakes to go beyond this, and strain its power to force prices above a natural and healthy level, its deliberations become farcical and its resolutions come to naught.

It is fortunate that in their action this week the Chicago dealers kept carefully within the limits set by prudence and good judgment. They have made a list of prices that may fairly be obtained. They may be obtained, not because they are declared by a meeting, but because they represent what lumber is worth.

There is another good reason why the new list should prove one that will be observed by the trade—it is simply the basis of further advances that are certain to follow within a few weeks. There is the strongest "bull" feeling in lumber that was ever known at this season of the year. It is a feeling developed out of the conditions of the trade, and that is bound to increase. As it transpires from day to day—and it certainly will do so—that competing markets follow promptly in the lead of Chicago, and put up their figures to correspond, the practicability of securing still better prices will become apparent, and the necessary result will be a steady upward movement. A lingering fear of the dark weeks about the fourth of July, led to the making of a slightly lower list than the strength of the situation warranted, but in this respect if the dealers made any error it was on the right side. The mistake of making their list too low, can be easily rectified; the mistake of making it too high, has always proved demoralizing and disastrous.

Beginning with the better grades, there was little attempt made to advance them; in fact, none of the items were really put up except B select, which was made \$31 for 1½ and 1½ inch, and \$32 for 2-inch, and 3-inch third clear, which was put at \$44. In 12-inch stocks, B was advanced \$1, to \$37, and D to \$22 for 12 to 16 feet, and \$24 for 18 and 20 ft. Twelve inch common, was put at \$16 for 12 feet, \$14.50 for 14 and 16 feet, and \$18 for 18 and 20 feet, being an advance of about fifty cents. No. 2 boards 12 feet, were raised a half dollar to \$14. Box boards were not changed particularly, except on D, which was lifted to \$24. There was considerable discussion over strips, which were finally left about as they have been quoted, with a provision that sixteen feet strips be held one dollar higher than other lengths. In flooring, the practical changes were on C, 6-inch, put at \$24.50; No. 1 Norway raised to \$16.50; A and B, 4-inch, \$33 and

\$31 respectively; Norway, clear, \$23, B \$21 and C \$18; ship lap was advanced to \$15.50 and \$16 for 8 and 10-inch; the balance of the flooring list was left without much further change. It was developed that there is a good deal of variation in the prices made on siding, and after some talk it was decided to quote it \$21.50 for clear, \$20.50 for A, \$18 for B, \$13.50 for C and \$10 for D. The price of ceiling was made in proportion. Common and cull boards were advanced decidedly over the prices that have been secured heretofore. They were made \$14 for No. 1, \$12.50 for No. 2 and \$10 for No. 3. Thick common went up to \$14 also. The list on fencing was fixed at \$15.50 for No. 1, \$13 for No. 2, \$10 for No. 3; No. 1 Norway, \$15; and 4-inch common, 12 and 14 feet \$13, and 16 feet \$12. It was recommended by the committee that the D flooring should be left in the No. 1 quality of this sort of lumber. Piece stuff was advanced to \$12.50 for 2x4 to 2x10—12, 14 and 16 feet. For 2x12 and small timber the price was put at \$3.50. Up to 2x10 the price of 18 and 20 feet was set at \$15. The quotations on the larger sizes and longer lengths may be found in our market columns. Cull dimension was also advanced a trifle, 2 inch plank of promiscuous widths being made \$10, and 2x4 \$11. The shingle quotations were established at \$2.40 for extra A, \$2.25 for choice, \$2.15 for standard, and \$2.20 and \$2 for extra and standard cedar. Lath was put up to \$2.10.

## HOW TO SELECT GOOD TIMBER.

There are certain appearances which are characteristic of strong and durable timber, to what class soever it belongs. In the same species of timber, that specimen will in general be the strongest and most durable which has grown the slowest, as shown by the narrowness of the annual rings. The cellular tissue, as seen in the medullary rays (when visible), should be hard and compact. The vascular or fibrous tissue should adhere firmly together and should show no woolliness at a freshly cut surface, nor should it clog the teeth of the saw with loose fibres. If the wood is colored, darkness of color is in general a sign of strength and durability. The freshly cut surface of the wood should be firm and shining, should have somewhat of a translucent appearance. A dull, chalky appearance is a sign of bad timber. In wood of a given species, the heaviest specimens are in general the strongest and the most lasting. Among resinous woods, those which have least resin in their pores, and among non-resinous woods those which have least sap or gum in them, are in general the strongest and most lasting. It is stated by some authors that in fir wood which has most sap wood, and in hard wood that which has the least, is the most durable; but the universality of this law is doubtful. Timber should be free from such blemishes as clefts or cracks radiating from the center; "cup-shakes" or cracks which partially separate one annular layer from another; V upses, where the fibres have been crippled by compressions; V "rindgalls," or wounds in the layer of the wood, which have been covered and concealed by the growth of subsequent layers over them and hollow or spongy places in the centre or elsewhere, indicating the commencement of decay. — *Chicago Lumber Trade Journal*.

## TREES ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

GEORGE H. Hamm, the well-known correspondent, who is "doing" British Columbia in the interests of the *Winnipeg Manitokan*, writes as follows: "The timber supply of the province is apparently inexhaustible, and will doubtless prove a mine of wealth before many years. Already shipments are made to the Australian, South American and Chinese markets, but the volume of trade has not as yet reached the proportion that it is capable of. The principal tree is the Douglass fir, which ranges from four to twelve feet in diameter, and from two hundred to three hundred feet high. It is straight and tough, and capable of bearing a great strain, and is almost unequaled for bridging, framework and for ship-building, while its great length and straightness make it especially adapted for masts and spars. Besides the Douglass, the following trees are to be found in the province—the lists being obtained from a work issued by the local government. Western hemlock, large, found on coast and Columbian river; Englemann's spruce, eastern part of province and interior plateau; Menzies spruce, very large, mostly on coast; great silver fir, coast tree of great size; balsam spruce, abounds in Gold and Selkirk ranges, and east of McLeod's lake; Williamson's Alpine hemlock, too scarce and too high up to be of much use; red pine (yellow pine or pitch pine), a variety of the heavy yellow pine of California and Oregon, very handsome, four feet in diameter, common in dryer parts of the interior; white pine, (mountain pine,) Columbia region—Shuswap and Adams' lakes—also interior of Vancouver's Island; white-barked pine, small; western cedar (giant cedar or red cedar,) wood pale, yellow or reddish color, very durable, often found 100 to 150 feet high, and 15 feet thick; yellow cypress

(yellow cedar,) mainland coast, Vancouver and Queen Charlotte islands; western larch (tamarac,) Rocky Mountains, Selkirk and Gold ranges, west to Shuswap lake, large tree, yields a strong, coarse, durable wood; maple, valuable hard wood, on Vancouver and adjacent islands, Queen Charlotte island and the mainland coast, up to 55 deg., attaining a diameter of four feet; vine maple, very strong, tough white wood, confined to coast; yew, Vancouver and opposite mainland shores, very tough and hard, and of a beautiful rose color; crab apple, along all the coasts, wood very hard, takes good polish, and withstands great wear; alder, two feet thick, on the Lower Fraser and along coast, good furniture wood; western birch (paper or canoe birch,) Columbia region, Upper Fraser, Peace river, range and value not much known; oak, on Vancouver island, 70 feet in height, and three feet in diameter; dogwood, Vancouver and coast opposite; arbutus, close grained, heavy, resembling box, reaches 50 feet in height, and 20 inches in diameter, found on Vancouver and neighboring islands; aspen poplar, abounds over the whole interior, reaching a thickness of two feet. Three other varieties of poplar are found, commonly included under the name cottonwood. One does not extend above Yale, and is the same wood largely used in Puget Sound to make staves for sugar barrels for San Francisco. The other two kinds occur in valleys in the interior. Mountain ash, in the interior; Juniper (red cedar or pencil cedar,) east coast of Vancouver, and along the shores of Kamloops and other lakes in the interior.

There are already some very extensive saw mills in operation—and have been cutting for a quarter of a century—and yet this branch of industry is only in its infancy. Not only is there the trans-Pacific trade, gigantic as it should soon be, but with cheap freight rates the treeless plains of the northwest could be readily supplied, and profitable interchange of commodities spring up.

## THE SPEED OF CIRCULAR SAWS.

Competent authority has decided after long experiments that the rim of a circular saw should travel about nine thousand feet or nearly two miles a minute. Following is a table compiled to show the number of revolutions a minute saws of different sizes should make to reach an average speed of 9,000 feet a minute:

Size of Saw.	Revs. a minute.	Size of Saw.	Revs. a minute.	Size of Saw.	Revs. a minute.
8 in.	4,500	30 in.	1,200	52 in.	700
10 in.	3,600	32 in.	1,125	54 in.	675
12 in.	3,000	34 in.	1,058	56 in.	650
14 in.	2,585	36 in.	1,000	58 in.	625
16 in.	2,222	38 in.	950	60 in.	600
18 in.	2,000	40 in.	900	62 in.	575
20 in.	1,800	42 in.	870	64 in.	550
22 in.	1,636	44 in.	840	66 in.	545
24 in.	1,500	46 in.	800	68 in.	529
26 in.	1,384	48 in.	750	70 in.	514
28 in.	1,285	50 in.	725	72 in.	500

These calculations are based on the assumption that the circumference is just three times the diameter. This assumption is for ease in computation, and the reader of course understands that, as the circumference is more than three times the diameter, by a small fraction, the saw will in each case run a little faster than this computation demands. The speeds are near enough for all practical purposes.

—Says a traveller who has recently visited the Pacific coast: Among the myriads of natural curiosities and wonder that confront the visitor to the coast of the North Pacific ocean, nothing impressed me so deeply as the gigantic forests of Puget Sound. That arm of the Pacific is 25 miles in length, with a shore so irregular and indented so plentifully with bays and deep harbors that its measurement is over 1,800 miles in extent. Along this whole shore line and extending thence on both sides miles and miles farther than the eye can see, is one vast unbroken area of forest trees, the like of which I never saw. A few saw mills have been erected along the sound, and although for several years they have ripped 500,000,000 feet of lumber from these forests annually, these spaces made by what seem like tremendous inroads on the timber, appear like little garden patches. The markets for this product of these mills in the depths of the Washington territory wilderness is South America, Australia, Central America, and the Pacific ocean islands. The great belt of virgin timber covers 30,000,000 acres, an area equal to that of the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The forests are of fir, cedar, maple and other valuable wood. The firs comprise two-thirds of the timber. An official estimate places the amount of timber on this belt at 500,000,000 feet, enough to last the mills now there for more than 1,000 years. The fir trees grow to the enormous height of 250 feet, and I have seen piles of boards cut from them, not one board in which was less than 10 feet long and six feet wide, without a knot from one end to the other.