tion becomes more generally recognized a sharp advance in some lines of hardwoods may be expected. The scarcity of basswood still continues.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The spruce market is exceptionally strong. When the mills close down for the season they will be carrying very little stock that has not been contracted for. The low freight rates have enabled shippers to place lumber on the British market at a comparatively low figure. Prices of square and waney timber are unchanged. The figures showing the quantity which has reached Quebec this season will be found in another column. The proposed improvements to Quebec harbor, on which tenders have just been taken, will cost upwards of one million dollars, and will call for considerable large timber.

UNITED STATES.

The slight weakness incident to the summer months has passed away, and now that the harvest is almost over the demand for lumber is increasing and promises to assume large proportions during the fall months. The effect on the lumber trade of the abundant harvest of corn and the smaller grains overshadows all other features and assures another year at least of general commercial prosperity. It is evident from the volume of trade that this is the view taken by dealers and consumers. White pine leads all other classes of lumber. Sales are being made at the quotations last given, although a slight weakness has exhibited itself in low grade inch pine, and the better grades show a tendency to advance. It is not unusual for dealers to ask an advance of from $1 to $2 per thousand over list quotations on selects and uppers. At Toledo, Ohio, No. 4 boards show increased strength, while Norway is selling at an advance of $1, and some dealers have advanced hemlock prices 50 cents. There is a tendency on the part of buyers of hemlock to want special widths and sizes instead of buying it merchantable, as has been the rule in the past. It is expected that Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers will put out a list within a week making an advance of 50 cents on hemlock, the supply of which seems to be growing shorter every day. The base price will then be $15.50. Spruce continues in strong demand. Prices are unchanged, although the rush of orders now reported is likely to bring about an early advance. All grades of hardwood lumber are moving actively. A New York dealer reports that he is selling cull hardwoods at a higher price than ever before. Basswood and maple are holding the strong position they recently acquired, while there is less complaint of a shortage of oak than there was two months ago. The tone of the shingle and lath market is in line with lumber. The building trade throughout the Eastern States is exceptionally active and is consuming large quantities of shingle and lath as well as lumber. No. 1 white pine lath are quoted as high as $4 at Tonawanda. In Chicago the price is given as $3.50.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Steadiness characterizes the British timber market. Wet weather has interfered with house building and other outdoor operations, but the volume of business in lumber has been sufficient to maintain prices. Information recently received that prices of Swedish lumber had been advanced exerted a favorable influence upon the market. Prices realized at auction sales in August show conclusively that there is a strong demand for the better qualities of Canadian lumber. As imports for the balance of the season are expected to be light, it is believed that there will be no difficulty in holding the present range of prices throughout the year. Favorable reports are still chronicled regarding spruce lumber. Writing of the Liverpool market a correspondent of the Timber Trades Journal says: "The spruce market is still in the same firm position; some shippers are pretty well sold out, and what they possess they purpose holding until the autumn or winter shipments are to be made by the liners. Judging from advices we have from abroad and from the attitude here, the position of the spruce market is likely to be maintained for the remainder of the season, if indeed an advance is not made. This will certainly be the case for cargoes in sailing vessels as soon as the prohibition of carrying deck loads comes in vogue." In London the market shows signs of coming strength, current quotations for Quebec third quality spruce being £9 15s c.i.f., and for 3 x 7 and 8 £7 5s to £7 10s, according to specification.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The retail price of pine shingles in the Buffalo market is $1.50.

The steamer Rap is about to load deals at Cape Tormentine, N. B., for the United Kingdom.

The barque Kohola has sailed with lumber from the Hastings mills, Vancouver, B. C., for Delagoa Bay, South Africa.

The Bryan Manufacturing Company, of Collingwood, Ont., are reported to have purchased 1,000,000 feet of lumber from the Holland-Graves Lumber Company, of Byng Inlet.

Frank I. Alliger, of North Tonawanda, N. Y., recently purchased 3,500,000 feet of box and other minor grades of white pine in the Georgian Bay district, to be shipped to Tonawanda.

The Millar-McCool Lumber Company has been formed in Pembroke. They have purchased a limit on the Georgian Bay which they will operate during the coming winter, taking out a quantity of square timber.

The statement was made last week that Hon. John Charlton had purchased timber limits in the Wahnipitae district from Hale & Booth, of Pembroke. The limits purchased by Mr. Charlton were owned by Booth & Shannon.

The iron barque Weatherfield is loading a cargo of lumber at Montreal for Adelaide, Aus. The cargo will consist largely of pine from the Ottawa valley. The trip from Montreal to Australia will occupy over 100 days.

A Buffalo dealer furnishes the following prices of inch white pine in leading grades: Uppers, $75; selects, $79; fine common, $60; No. 1 cuts, $40; No. 2 cuts, $25, No. 1 moulding, $50; No. 1 shelving, 10 inches and wider, $42; No. 1 dressing, $35; shaky clear, 4 inches and wider, $35; box, 6 inches and wider, $17.50; 1x12 box $20; No. 1 barn, $26 to $32; No. 2 barn, $23.50 to $26; No. 3 barn, $19 to $23; mill culls, 4 inches and wider, $14 to $14.50.

A. S. Kibbee & Son and D. L. White & Company, of Albany, N. Y., have just closed one of the largest timber purchases in the history of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with Ferguson Bros., of Munising. The amount involved in the deal is about $500,000. Ferguson Bros. are to cut the pine from a tract of timber of 20,000 acres on the Dead River, northwest of Marquette. It is estimated that there is about 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 feet of pine in the tract. The pine will be sawed at Marquette and distributed from there.

The following timber berths were sold at the Crown Lands Office, Fredericton, N. B., last week: S. W. of Crocker's Lake, parish of Derby, two miles, to Robert E. Parks, at $8 a mile; Cain's river, two miles, to Wm. Richards Company, at $8 a mile; Bass River, Gloucester county, three miles, to T. B. Winslow, at $104 a mile; North branch, Newcastle River, two miles, to Sayre & Holly Lumber Co., $9 a mile; East of Hazleton Settlement, S. W. Miramichi, two miles, to Thomas Parker, at $8 a mile; Dideguash River, two miles, to F. H. Todd & Sons, at $15 a mile.

Of the Barbadoes lumber market Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company, in their report of August 16th, say: "There have been no arrivals of either white pine or spruce within the fortnight. The demand, as usual at this season of the year, is very limited, but a small cargo of suitable white pine would probably bring fair prices. Spruce will not be wanted to any extent until later in the year, but a small cargo might be placed at about late rates. The only arrival in shingles is 134,000 by the "Resolute" from Gaspe, Que., of which 79,000 of Spruce Laying were sold at $2.25½, and 55,000 Cedar Laying at same price.

SPRUCE IN NEW YORK.

The following reference to the spruce lumber market of New York is interesting: The spruce market perhaps more than any other is a shining example of present conditions in the wholesale market, while its prevailing features are based on actual conditions from sources of supply to consuming centres rather than on any outside causes. In conversation with a local Eastern Spruce house last week they said:

"Spruce is a bull situation from top to bottom and unless all signs fail we will see the highest price for spruce lumber and logs before snow flies that we have ever known. There is a short log supply at the mills, while conditions in the consuming markets are such that manufacturers and commission men are getting any price within reason for their lumber. It is not a question of price but simply of being able to furnish the material, and, even if the demand should fall off more than one half during the next three months, the conditions are such at producing sources that the highest average price will result just the same. We have had the biggest business this year that we have ever had. We have had the highest average price for our lumber that we have ever had, and yet with all this the market to all appearances, throughout all this season, has been a dull one and it has been necessary for us to go after the business as hard as in ordinary times, and yet we have had these results."

This is, indeed, a singular condition, but nevertheless a true one, and while the same conditions have been experienced in other lumber, they have not been so pronounced as in the spruce market. As a matter of fact the largest amount of business and the highest average price which has been obtained by the manufacturers cannot in reality be harmonius with a dull market, and yet that is just what has happened and makes the why and wherefore doubly hard to figure out.

The arrival of Eastern Spruce continues light, but what was arriving at last reports was selling promptly at $17 to $18.50 for narrow random, $18.50 to $21 for wide random, and $20 to $23 for special orders, with lath firm at $3 to $3.25, with an upward tendency. The arrivals of random cargoes from now on will be light, as those firms owning mills are sawing nothing but special orders and will continue to do so under present conditions, as the demand for this class of stock is brisk.