

opens; and freights, they do not expect, will open higher than \$1.75, and will likely drop to \$1.50 a little later. There are enough weak men in the lumber business in Duluth, as is usually the case with any new district, to render a measure of cutting in price almost a certainty. The wise policy for Duluth lumbermen would be to hold to a reasonable price, but all of them have not a long enough purse for that, and sales must be made to secure needed cash. Better grades in white pine are stronger than they have been for many months, and are likely to remain so.

FOREIGN.

The lumber trades of the United Kingdom are now able to speak in somewhat exact terms of the condition of business during the past year. The various brokers have issued their annual circulars and the lumber trades' journals of the past week or two have been publishing their annual statistical information, and telling us just what sort of a year 1894 showed itself to be. Briefly, as one journal has remarked, these reports tell the same tale. The record has been of shrunken profits for the wood trade and a sluggish demand, though as Timber remarks "on the whole it can hardly be said that there has, during the past year, been any contraction of the wood trade generally. The one great disturbing element from which most merchants at every port in the Kingdom have suffered, some seriously, is the great failure in deal prices which took place after very considerable purchases had been made." Heavy failures also occurred towards the close of the year. Glasgow suffered from a prolonged strike, and yet, the lumber trade at that port has not been unsatisfactory. The thought is, doubtless, born of the hope, that there is a better outlook on the whole for trade this year. What will be the outcome in other foreign countries, it is a little difficult to say just yet.

HARDWOODS.

Compared with a week ago, there has been rather more life in hardwoods. Lumbermen have been able to get about with a little greater ease, and those who have orders for mixed stocks are now visiting hardwood districts and seeing in how far they can meet the needs of their customers. A good demand exists for elm, ash and basswood, but the same trouble that was noted in this column last week, continues to meet hardwood men, namely, a call from United States dealers for sizes in lumber that are not usual to the trade here. Wholesalers also meet this obstacle. Orders are for 1st and 2nd, probably, and they are able to purchase only mill run. The result is that frequently they have a remnant of poorer grades on their hands, which have to be disposed of at a sacrifice and this operates against profits on their sales to that extent. There is really no change in prices. These hold about the same as for some weeks past and continue firm. Indications are plain that the furniture industry in the United States is showing a marked improvement and enquiries for many kinds of hardwoods are shaping into fact.

SHINGLES.

A single sentence will give the shingle situation, namely: trade continues just as dull as ever, it making little matter what class of shingles are referred to.

Thos. Belanger is starting in the lumber business in Quebec.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

Mr. Anderson is getting out a large quantity of boxwood along Spruce Lake, N. B.

British Columbia shipped \$18,182 worth of shingles into the United States during 1894.

A. Barner, Renfrew, Ont., will cut about 160,000 cubic feet in wancy and 15,000 C feet of square timber this season.

It is estimated that 27,000,000 feet more logs will be put into the Miramichi river this year than last.

Two cargoes of deals, aggregating about 500,000 feet, have cleared St. John, N. B., for the United Kingdom.

Henry Moiles, jr., has sold all lumber on the docks of the Moiles mill, St. John Island, amounting to 6,000,000 feet, to parties in the Eastern States.

Messrs. Booth and Hale have made a purchase of 300,000 feet of board pine from Perry & Co., of Sault Ste Marie. The pine is in northern Michigan and will be taken to Quebec for shipment to the Old Country. It is 2 1/2 inch string and 26 feet in length.

Timber, London, Eng: The action of a prominent Quebec shipper, who has given advanced prices for a well-known stock of Canadian pine deals, and thus compelled other similar firms to follow suit, has caused much discussion and some scepticism as to whether these goods can bear another advance. New Brunswick spruce deals are extremely sluggish, and North of England buyers show no inclination to enter into any large purchases. An unusually large stock is being carried over at slightly declining quotations, and there is no immediate prospect of any improvement. A recent St. John steamer shipment to Liverpool, together with a large sailer now due at port named, have changed hands on the basis of about £5 15s. ex quay, and the bulk of both cargoes will probably go direct into consumption. Another St. John shipment of considerable size is afloat for the Bristol Channel, and is likely to be the last arrival for a few weeks.

Operations in New Brunswick are reported as follows: At Albert, Albert county, C. & I. Prescott will get out about two and a half million feet of spruce, two hundred thousand feet of hardwood, and some five hundred tons of tan bark. This firm is not operating as extensively as last year. At West Brook, Geo. D. Prescott will cut something over two million feet. At Alma, the Alma Lumbering Co., will cut five and a half million. At Point Wolfe, Geo. J. Vaughan will probably cut four million. J Prescott will cut in the vicinity of two million feet at Goose Creek. At Little Salmon River, S. H. White & Co., expect to cut about three and a half million. This firm have about five hundred thousand feet on hand from last year. At Big Salmon River, C. M. Bostwick & Co. will probably cut about five millions. John McLeod, M. P. P., at Black River, will cut about a million and a half. At Irish River, W. H. and J. Rourke expect to cut between one and two million feet. There are several other smaller concerns who will get out anywhere from one hundred thousand to five hundred thousand feet.

UNITED STATES.

Elm logs are selling in Michigan at \$8.50, a decline of \$1.50 over a year ago.

Hemlock logs are being purchased for \$2.25 and \$2.50 a thousand at Saginaw, Mich.

The cut of logs on the Kennebec, Me., is estimated at 72,000,000 feet. The cut last season was over 100,000,000 feet.

The Ramsay & Jones mill at Menominee, Mich., is cutting 40,000 feet of basswood lumber a day with one band saw.

The Sutherland-Jones Company, which operates the Evatt stave mills at Saginaw, Mich., has purchased 15,000,000 feet of logs.

A New York report says that South American advices of late give promise of a greater number of orders than previously indicated.

Wm. H. White & Co., of Boyne City, Mich., say that prices on hardwoods are looking up. They have a good many enquiries for birch, mostly from the east.

FOREIGN.

A report from Glasgow, Scotland, says the tone of prices for Quebec timber has been improving; last year's import was light and stocks, when made up at the close of the year very moderate, while as regards prospective requirements they are of a substantial kind, our leading wood consuming trades being well employed.

The following are given as the wholesale prices for lumber in Newfoundland by the Trade Review of St. John, Nfld.

Hemlock board, No 1.....	\$16.00 to 17.00
Spruce board, No 1.....	20.00
Spruce plank, joisting, studding	
scantling.....	20.00 to 22.00
1 in P. & T. spruce flooring.....	24.00
1 1/4-in P. & T. spruce flooring.....	25.00
1 1/2-in P. & T. spruce flooring.....	25.00
Pine boards (clear).....	30.00 to 40.00
Hardwood plank.....	30.00 to 40.00
Shingles, cedar No 1, per m.....	4.00
Ditto, pine, No 1.....	2.00
Ditto, spruce, No 1.....	1.50
Laths.....	1.50 to 2.00

THE SITUATION.

REFLECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OF "WEEKLY LUMBERMAN."

J. & P. Ament, Brussels, Ont.: In building lines business is looking up. We have 12 contracts on hand, and expect a few more in next week, so prospects are a little better in that line.

H. Pedwell, Thornbury, Ont.: A fair trade is doing, more particularly in elm, ash, basswood and rock elm. Sold 8 cars this week at moderate prices. Stocks in elm and basswood are light. There is a fair demand for birch in this district. Prices are firm and mill men prefer holding, rather than selling at cut prices; the inspection is very severe.

J. & L. B. Knight, Musquash, N. B.: It is too early in this section to expect any large activity in stocks. Deals for English market are in most demand. An improved trade is expected with the United States this year. Manufactured stocks are very low in this district. Logs are in good supply. The tendency of prices, we think, is upwards.

A. Tait, Orillia, Ont.: I notice in your last issue that Washington Territory *A* shingles are quoted at \$2.30 in Ontario. Most buyers are not acquainted with the numerous brands used in that country on shingles. Would expect *A* to be a perfect shingle, free from knots and other defects, but they are really only a good second class shingle, being 10" clear butts and better. That is, knots may be anywhere 10" in from the butt.

Alfred Kaufman, Baden, Ont.: Can not say that stocks are moving actively. Lumber most in demand are pine and hemlock and red cedar shingles. Of recent sales I can report 10-in. hemlock at \$11 to \$12; 10-in. pine \$16. Considerable 10-in. stock and good common are on hand in this district. Lumber prices are firm. Prices in shingles are declining.

T. H. De Cew, Essex, Ont.: The favorable winter weather has heavily stocked the mills with logs. We have put in 2,500,000 feet at a cost of \$6 a 1000, of elm, oak, ash, cottonwood, sycamore and soft maple. Have contracted 6,000,000 staves for New York market; contracted considerable of lumber from this year's cut at good prices. Judging from the very large number of enquiries for hardwood lumber the market promises to open out brisk, as soon as the severe cold passes over and the prospects are much brighter than a month ago and all are very hopeful for a return of better times in the near future.

Emile Dubie, Riviere du Loup, Quebec: Snow very deep in the woods. Cut will be somewhat smaller than usual. Three shingle mills are being put up along Temiscouata railway. Outside of this, railroad ties are the principal industry along the road. Along the International King Bros. at Cedar Hall, are cutting 75,000 logs, and Price Bros. & Co., 10,000 logs spruce. The Cedar Shingle Co., at Rimouski, will have timber to keep five mills running all summer. Prices for shingles are better than for some time. Sales made in Boston at \$2.90 for exports and \$2.50 for clears. Am getting 125,000 along coast of St. Lawrence, Temiscouata and International Railways. Prospects for all kinds of lumber improving.

R. E. Gray, New York: There is practically nothing new in the lumber trade in this market. Everything is very quiet, but as a general thing the retail yards feel very confident that they will have a fair business during the coming spring and summer in which case it seems that we might have quite a little business as they all seem so hopeful. To me it does not look as though we would do any large amount of business until the financial questions before the country are settled on some permanent basis. I think that before long the retail yards will realize that good lumber is scarce. I have been over a good deal of the western country and think there is no good lumber to be had from the mills, and there doesn't seem to be much coarse lumber left either.

DEATH OF MR. ALEXANDER McARTHUR.

The sudden death of Mr. Alexander McArthur, of Toronto, president of the large lumber firm of McArthur Bros. & Co., (Ltd.), at Ashton, North Carolina, on Saturday 22nd, inst., was a great shock to his friends everywhere. Deceased had left for the South about three weeks ago, and no such sad news was anticipated. The firm of which deceased was the head, was one of the largest and best known on the continent. Their business was largely as exporters to the United Kingdom. They have branches in England, Ireland and Scotland, as well as offices in Michigan, Quebec and Toronto. The remains of the deceased were brought to Toronto and interred in Mount Pleasant.

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