

CANADA LUMBERMAN

WEEKLY EDITION

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CANADA LUMBERMAN

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Weekly Lumberman, published every Wednesday, contains reliable and up-to-date market conditions and prices in the principal manufacturing districts and leading domestic and foreign wholesale markets. A daily medium of information and communication between Canadian timber and lumber manufacturers and exporters and the purchasers of timber products at home and abroad.

Lumberman, Monthly. A 20-page journal, discussing fully and impartially subjects pertinent to the timber and wood-working industries. Contains interviews with prominent members of the trade, and character sketches and portraits of leading lumbermen. Special articles on technical and mechanical subjects especially valuable to saw mill and planing mill men and manufacturers of lumber products.

Subscription price for the two editions for one year, \$2.00.

WANTED AND FOR SALE

Advertisements will be inserted in this department at the rate of 15 cents per line each insertion. When four or more consecutive insertions are ordered a discount of 10 per cent. will be allowed. This notice shows the width of the line and is set in Nonpareil type, and no display is allowed beyond the head line. Advertisements must be received not later than 4 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday to insure insertion in the current week's issue.

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LOUIS LAHAY, Kearney, Ont., Can.

On the fourth page of the WEEKLY LUMBERMAN will be found market prices in detail from leading lumber markets of Canada and United States, carefully revised to hour of going to press.

CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

WITH the month of February entered into, it is believed the time is nearing when lumber will become an active factor in commerce. This, at least, is the hope of the trade. How far that hope is to be realized is a question that is seriously discussed by lumbermen. "Lumber is all right," was the clear-cut statement of one of the largest mill men of the province a day or two since, though commercial conditions generally, he was prepared to admit, were slow and uncertain. More than once we have noted the strong spirit of confidence that is displayed by those who hold large interests in milling properties and timber limits. And there would seem to be substantial reasons for entertaining this view. Timber to-day is one of the resources of the country that can hardly be expected to depreciate in value. As is frequently remarked, the man who can hold on to timber limits is sure to make money. Admitting so much, however, the immediate question is this: will this spirit of confidence help materially the business of the spring and summer of 1895? There are those in the trade, who are able from a wide and intimate knowledge of the field to form an intelligent opinion, who fear that there will not be as great a revival of trade the coming season as is expected on many hands, and hoped for by all. They argue that there is still prevalent a spirit of distrust in the business community, and whilst it is believed that bottom has really been struck, at the same time, the progress from rock bottom onward to a more encouraging condition of affairs will be slow. Caution is, therefore, advised, and the belief is that preparations ought not to be made for an over large trade, less serious consequences follow, and retard the progress that may have been made. What then, is asked, will be the effect of these conditions on prices? There is no disposition at the present time to break prices, but there are those who contend that after the new cut is on the market, and every one will know just what shape the business of the spring and summer has taken, that prices will become lower. The continued presence of southern pine on the Canadian market is also having its bearing on prices. Notwithstanding known efforts that lumbermen of the south are making to place their industry on a more business-like basis, it is hard to prevent cutting in prices for yellow pine. These are elements that have a close bearing on the price situation of the future, and need to be considered with care by those who are in the market to buy.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The extent to which United States lumbermen are interesting themselves in the timber lands of the Maritime provinces and Quebec must have an important bearing on the future of the lumber industry of these provinces. A mention of the large timber purchase in Nova Scotia made by a syndicate of United States lumbermen, and a purchase in the vicinity of Three Rivers, Que., of about 1,300 square miles of timber lands, by General R. A. Alger, and Col. A. T. Bliss, of Michigan, is sufficient to signify what is meant. In Ontario it is known that when American lumbermen come into possession of limits they do not allow them to remain idle, but are hustlers in the work of cutting the timber and realizing, with as much rapidity as possible, on their investments. It is a natural thing to expect that these changes in the ownership of timber lands in the Lower Provinces will have a like influence there. Combined with this circumstance is the activity in the woods in the Maritime provinces this year, which is more aggressive than a year ago, raising the expectation that the new season, which will shortly open, will be fruitful of larger immediate business than has been the case for a year or two past. Large lumbermen like Senator Snowball, Alex. Gibson and others hope to see more activity in the markets of the United Kingdom than in the year closed, and are shaping their business to meet these expected requirements. Added to the trade with Great Britain some increase in the business with France and certainly an increase in United States business is anticipated.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The continued shipping of British Columbia lumber to California betokens the capture of a fairly successful field by Canadian coast lumbermen. To quote from the Tacoma correspondent of a lumber cotemporary: "The fellows across the line are slowly, but surely, getting into the best market for fir and spruce lumber that we have." Not a little lumber is going abroad every week, but it must be admitted that the export fields of Australia, South Africa and even South America are not providing very lucrative business for lumbermen at present. Preparations at the same time are going on actively for the new season's trade, and it is thought that February will not close without practical evidence that the lumber business of the coast is really taking a shape that will bring actual business to lumbermen.

UNITED STATES.

Business of the week has been disturbed by monetary troubles. It is

only about a year since the whole commerce of the United States was paralyzed by the silver trouble, and it looks as though there would be a repetition of the difficulty through the condition of gold in the national treasury. It is not our place to discuss the monetary problem, but it is a matter of serious concern to the lumber trade, on the eve of an apparent revival, that difficulty again from this source should show itself. The effect on the week's trade has been to stay transactions that might have developed into reality, and lumbermen are commencing to draw themselves into their shells and ask the question, is there safety in branching out with any degree of vigor into spring business? It is to be said that with the opening of February the feeling was that trade would commence to bestir itself. These conditions are now changed, emphasizing the hope that the President and Congress will show themselves equal to the situation and that no prolonged paralysis shall be placed on business. Information that comes to the LUMBERMAN from those who have recently visited the lumber centers of the eastern States go to show that the probabilities all point to an improved trade this spring. Get away from Buffalo, Tonawanda and Albany, and there is not much lumber in stock anywhere, and even at these points, a lumberman who has gone over that ground within the past week is authority for the statement, that there stocks are not as large as many people had supposed, and as has been stated in the press. Prices are not declining, though it is not believed that there can be any advance until a demand in larger proportions than that which shows itself, even when taking a sanguine view of the situation, is manifest. When the new cut comes on the market it will depend on the shape trade has then taken how far present prices will continue to hold firm.

FOREIGN.

It is really believed that the old chestnut, repeated over and over again in lumber circles for a year back, that the lumber trade was improving, is materializing into fact this time. There are good reasons for supposing, taking the markets of the United Kingdom throughout, that lumber conditions are putting on increased strength and that the dragging in business that has been so plain in the past will have disappeared before many months will have passed over. In the larger cities like London, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow at this writing there are evidences of larger activity in those lines of business that go to swell the consumption of lumber. Across the Atlantic, as