

there is consequently some hesitancy on the part of eastern buyers. Plain white and red oak are in fair demand and light supply, soft elm is scarce and basswood is plentiful.

There has been a recovery of about ten cents in the price of red cedar shingles. Reports from Washington state that wholesalers are eager to buy and that the situation shows a distinct improvement. This has been reflected in other kinds of shingles, although no advance in the east has taken place.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Indications are more numerous that the British lumber market is gaining strength. Business in London is brisker and importers are beginning to speculate. If the market were removed from the influence of Baltic shipments, there would probably be a surprisingly quick recovery in prices, but as this is out of the question the improvement promises to be very gradual. Stocks are changing hands more freely between merchant and consumer than has been the case for many months, and prices at the recent public sales have maintained a fairly steady level. Spruce deals are showing unusual strength. One report states: "There has been a much better demand for spruce during the week, and if this were only to continue for a few weeks at the same rate, there would be a substantial rise in prices to record. Stocks of 329 unassorted spruce have been cleared by the principal agents at £9 per standard, and many lines of unassorted that sold at £8 5s at the auctions a short time ago have been resold by the buyers at £9 per standard." Importers are beginning to feel that there are not likely to be heavy consignments from Canada, which is doing much towards restoring confidence.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

E. B. Foss & Company, of Bay City, Mich., have imported from the Georgian Bay district about 5,000,000 feet of lumber a month during the season.

Crate & Sparham, of Smiths Falls, Ont., have just bought 400 acres in Beckwith Township, near Franktown, on which there is a considerable quantity of timber.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company, of Sandwich, Ont., last week sold 3,000,000 feet of white pine lumber to the Detroit Lumber Company and Lowrie & Robinson.

The Spanish River Room Company handled approximately 160,000,000 feet of logs this season. Last year the output was 200,000,000 feet and next year it is likely to be still smaller.

Robert Potts, of Fredericton, N.B., has entered into a contract with the St. John Lumber Company, of Van Buren, Maine, to cut 3,000,000 feet of logs for them during the coming season.

The Pigeon River Lumber Company, of Port Arthur, Ont., will have five camps in operation this winter, three on the Canadian side and two on the American side. It is expected that from 30,000,000 to 35,000,000 feet of logs will be cut.

Hon. E. J. Davis, Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario, is asking for tenders by November 15th for the right to cut the red and white pine timber on a number of small parcels of cut-over and burnt-over lands situated in the Townships of Burleigh and Johnson and district of Algoma. The berths in Algoma district include No. 108, on the north shore of Lake Huron, and Berth A, on Dog Lake, 6 1/2 miles west of Chapleau.

There is now about 18,250,000 feet of last season's log cut of the provincial operators hung up in the upper St. John river, divided as follows:

	Feet
Randolph & Baker	6,000,000
Cunliffe	1,000,000
Kilburn	1,000,000
Chouinard	1,000,000
Edgecomb & Eaton (McConnell's)	5,000,000
Doucett Landry	1,500,000
Scott Bros	1,500,000
R. A. Estey estate	1,000,000
Hallett	750,000
	18,750,000

In addition to this the St. John Lumber Company at Van Buren were held up for 7,500,000 feet. This company, however, will operate quite extensively this winter. They will get out about 15,000,000 feet. The Van Buren Lumber Company will also operate on a fairly large scale, their estimate being about 10,000,000 feet.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.
(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)
ST. JOHN, N. B., Sept. 30th, 1904. — Things are somewhat brisker in lumber circles than they have been for some months past. All the mills in this vicinity are running at their full capacity and the annual output of this year promises to be about the average. Logs are coming along very freely and the indications are that there will be perhaps 20,000,000 feet piled and wintered at this port alone. As far as is known at present there have been very few large contracts made with loggers. This is a sure indication of a small cut this winter, as under ordinary conditions the choppers are in the woods by this time.

Many manufacturers are in a position this year where they have to run their mills at a loss or cease sawing altogether, owing to the high price they paid for their logs. As it means a heavy sum of money being tied up for a year at least unless they did so, those who were in that position have preferred to do the former. It may be depended upon that they will not be in a similar condition next year. This means that they will be more cautious in buying and contracting and already the reaction is being felt in logging circles, which fact is indicated in a lack of demand for woodmen and a consequent falling off in wages in that line ranging from 10 to 15 per cent.

While shingles have not shown any increased activity during the last fortnight, laths appear to be considerably more in demand and those who have any to sell are very hopeful of what the next month will bring forth. Shipments of laths have been fairly heavy since last writing, but the quantity of shingles on the different wharves has increased perceptibly.

The English market looks somewhat brighter than was the case at this time last month. Enquiries are more frequent and the demand has increased to such an extent that those interested are just now feeling very optimistic. Of course, this demand is not by any means heavy, but, compared with the depression of the last

few months, it is decidedly encouraging to the manufacturers.

Shipments have been sufficiently heavy to make considerable wharf-room and charters are booked that will relieve any inconvenience from this source for the next two months even if no further sales were made.

Prices have rallied and the indications seem to be, according to the opinions of men who are in a position to judge, that they will be higher yet before the closing in of winter.

Some large lots have been disposed of at prices ranging from \$11.75 to \$12.00 per M's. ft. for Merchantable (usual percentages of widths) 2/3 price for Fourth and Ends, f.o.b. steamer at New Brunswick port.

Charters to the West Coast of England are plentiful at 35s. per standard.

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