

ment, for two reasons, first, that there is uncertainty as to what prices should be asked, and second, that importers are still holding quite heavy stocks and are not anxious to enter into new obligations until these have been reduced. There is an almost certainty, however, that purchases will be made in the near future, and that the figures of the transactions will be favorable to shippers. The tone of the British market has greatly improved, spruce deals generally and pine deals in the standard sizes showing a strong upward tendency. Broad dimension pine deals are much asked for at Glasgow and Hartlepool and several sales are reported at satisfactory prices. At West Liverpool second quality pine is exceedingly scarce. A report from Liverpool states that within a short time spruce prices have gone up from £1 to £1 10s. per standard, with every indication of a further advance. The statement has gained some publicity in England that a St. John shipper has "cornered" all the available spruce in the Bay of Fundy district. The report appears to have induced buyers to look around for spruce. A lot of Quebec spruce stored at Belfast by shippers is being held at a stiff advance on prices recently asked. In some of the markets there is a scarcity of waney board pine, and consumers have in some instances substituted square timber, with the result that the latter wood is showing more strength.

**STOCKS AND PRICES.**

The Harbor Commissioners of Montreal are asking for tenders up to December 17th for supply of timber and planks.

The ship Prince Arthur, which sailed from the Hastings mill, Vancouver, on May 11th, for Cork, Ireland, has not yet reached its destination, although she is now overdue.

The New Brunswick Government will offer for sale on December 11th four timber berths of two square miles each, located in Cumberland district, Carlow Settlement, Gloucester county, to T. B. Winslow, at \$65 per mile; four miles, North Forks, Canaan river, to E. B. Winslow, at \$53 per mile.

It is reported that Keenan Bros., of Owen Sound, Ont., have secured a contract from an English government contractor for thirty carloads of maple flooring blocks. The blocks are to be delivered within four months.

Heavy sales of lath were made last week by Wisconsin manufacturers. The Francis Beiler Company, of Chicago, purchased 4,000,000 feet from the Kirby Carpenter Company and Hamilton, Merryman & Company, of Marinette, Wis.

In the Chicago market No. 1 fencing sells at \$22, No. 2 at \$18 to \$18.50, and No. 3 at \$15.50 to \$16. There is a scarcity there of long and wide piece stuff and 12 inch No. 1 and 2 stock boards. Hemlock is quoted at \$9.50.

On November 26th three cargoes of lumber arrived at Saginaw, Mich., from Blind River, Ont., consigned to Bliss & Van-Auken, and three cargoes from Midland, Ont., consigned to Mershon, Schuette, Parker & Company.

There is an indication of still higher prices for hemlock. For some time 12-inch boards have commanded a premium of 50 cents at Buffalo over the regular \$13 base price, but it is now said that this price will be made one dollar extra, as boards continue to be scarce.

The lumber dealers at Toledo, Ohio, have put in force a new price list in which several commodities are advanced, as follows: Wide pine common, 13-inches and up, \$55; wide No. 1 shelving, 13-inches and up, \$48; 1 x 6 shelving, or C strips, \$35; 1 x 4 No. 1 shelving, \$32; 6-4 and 8-4 No. 2 shops, \$35; No. 3, \$25.

The contract for the supply of cedar scantlings to the city of Toronto for the year 1902 has been awarded to Reid & Company, at \$14.24 per thousand feet. The same firm will supply hemlock timbers at the following prices: 12 and 16 feet lengths, \$12.96; 20 feet, \$15.96; 24 feet, \$17.96. Arthur Bryce secured the contract for pine lumber at \$16 for 12 and 15 feet lengths, \$17 for 20 feet, and \$20 for 24 feet.

Timber berths were sold last week at the Crown Lands office, Fredericton, N. B., as follows: Four miles, Bonny River, Charlotte county, to John E. Moore, at \$8.25 per mile; two miles, Robertville Settlement, Gloucester county, to T. B. Winslow, at \$65 per mile; four miles, North Forks, Canaan river, to E. B. Winslow, at \$53 per mile.

At an auction sale held by Foy, Morgan & Company, London, England, on November 20th, a quantity of deals ex. Scottish King, from Quebec, sold at the following prices: 10-30 ft. 4 x 11 in. first quality, red, £14 5s per std; 9-32 ft. 4 x 11, £13; 9-26 ft. 4 x 9, £12 15s; 10-24 ft. 4 x 8, £10 15s; 10-24 ft. 4 x 4-7, £10; 10-18 ft. 3 x 11; £16; 10-18 ft. 3 x 9, £13 15s; 10-18 ft. 3 x 8, £9 15s; 10-18 ft. 3 x 6, £8; 12-31 ft. 4 x 11 in. unassorted, red, £9; 6-25 ft. 4 x 11, £9 5s; 14-30 ft. 4 x 9, £9 10s; 6-26 ft. 4 x 9, £9 15s; 9-26 ft. 4 x 8, £8 15s; 10-26 ft. 4 x 7, £8 10s; 10-26 ft. 4 x 6, £8 5s; 10-24 ft. 4 x 5, £7 10s; 10-18 ft. 4 x 4, £7 15s; 8-24 ft. 3 x 11, £9 10s; 9-30 ft. 3 x 9, £10 5s; 9-24 ft. 3 x 8, £7 15s; 10-18 ft. 3 x 7, £7 10s; 10-18 ft. 3 x 6, £7 5s; 10-18 ft. 3 x 5, £7 10s; 12-18 ft. 3 x 6-11 in. discolored, £6. Spruce deals, ex. Ashmore, from Quebec, brought from £6 10s to £7 5s for third, fourth and fifth quality Oak timber, from Quebec, sold at 77s 6d to 85s per load of cub. feet.

Concerning the demand for hardwoods at Chicago the American Lumberman says: "The hardwood market presents

about the usual variety of ups and downs, with a substantial volume of trade and irregular prices. It may be said that the market at the present time is not all one-sided, as seemed to be the case up till a few weeks ago. Here and there one hears of a slightly better price being obtained for this or that commodity. Basswood is in fair request. Dealers are asking \$27 for firsts and seconds, 12-foot stock, but say that they are not always getting it. Birch moves with about its usual freedom and is in fair inquiry, but prices fail to respond. Maple is quiet and steady at a slightly improved basis.

**THE OTTAWA VALLEY.**

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Reports from dealers indicate that business is quiet in lumber circles at present. The scarcity of cars has still an important bearing in this direction, as it is difficult to get shipments to their destination. At present, however, customers in outside points are engaged or preparing to engage in stock-taking. Little lumber is being bought and business will probably be quiet till after the New Year. Prices are unchanged, with every prospect of maintaining a firm tone and a possibility of advancing.

Although the labor market has become easier, the cost of production of lumber promises to continue high; the scale of wages is as follows: Good choppers, \$27 to \$30 a month and board; general hands, \$18 to \$24 and board. In the square timber market wages are higher. Good hewers command \$50 a month and board, liners \$40, and scorers \$35. The all-round advance in produce is placed at ten per cent. by a large operator. Oats are selling here at 50 cents a bushel. Flour and hay show no advance, but pork is decidedly firm. Delivered at the Kippewa river, it is worth \$22 per barrel of 200 pounds. Hardware is also at a high figure.

Natural conditions this season are even worse than they were last. The long dry fall has left the swamps without water, and the first snowfall found the ground

comparatively free from frost. These conditions will make road-making exceedingly difficult task. The work of getting out logs will be no easy task. All the above conditions must be taken into consideration when figuring on future mill and retail prices.

Ottawa's new chief magistrate is well-known in and closely identified with the lumber trade. Mayor Davidson is a member of the firm of Davidson & Thackeray, which operates a large planing mill and sash and door factory in Ottawa. The firm is also building saw-mills on its limits above Coulonge. Mayor Davidson's executive ability has also been demonstrated in the success with which as president of the Capitol Lacrosse Club, he has managed its affairs. Ald. R. J. Davidson, the "father" of the council, is a brother of the chief magistrate.

The valuable water-power on the Quebec side of the Chaudiere promises to again be the subject of legation. In the Hull court on Saturday, Mr. Thomas Ahearn, president of the Ottawa Electric Company, filed an opposition to the improvements in the river being carried forward by the Ottawa and Hull Power Company. W. C. Edwards, M. P., and the Hawkesbury Lumber Company are rated as defendants in the suit. Mr. Ahearn is the owner of valuable water

(Continued on page 4.)

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