

public, it is generally admitted that the price is a further substantiation of the strength of the market. Manufacturers in Quebec and the Maritime provinces report enquiries for stock from the Eastern States, and liberal offers are being made. Clapboards, which have long been lifeless, are showing some improvement, extra spruce bringing \$29 to \$30 and clear spruce \$27 to \$28 on Boston rate of freight. A correspondent, in the monthly edition, gives interesting information regarding the production of lumber in New Brunswick. It is shown that the cut by portable mills will be considerable, but that manufacturers generally are looking for higher prices.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The annual meeting of the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association being held in Winnipeg last week, most of the dealers put business aside for the time being. Reports go to show, however, that there is a considerable demand for lumber at good prices. Snow has fallen in the Lake of the Woods district and throughout Western Manitoba. This has facilitated work in the woods and stimulated trade generally. The British Columbia mills are pressed with orders. It is said that fifteen vessels have been chartered to load lumber at the Chemainus mills for foreign destinations. The higher prices put into effect recently are being freely paid.

UNITED STATES.

Retail dealers and consumers in the Eastern States have not yet commenced to buy for their spring requirements, but it is admitted that ere long they will be compelled to yield. It is not believed that there will be any decline in lumber prices for several months to come. The eastern wholesale dealers are apparently reconciled to this view, as quite heavy purchases have been made by them at upper lake producing points. In the upper Mississippi district the log crop is likely to be 25 per cent. less than was anticipated at the beginning of the season. Of the prospective lumber production in the Duluth district, there has been sold over 100,000,000 feet, or about 25 per cent. of the total production. The bulk of the sales made consists of low grade stock, and much of it is for shipment to eastern distributing markets. Prices have ruled about as follows: No. 4 boards, \$12; No. 3, \$14; No. 2, \$16; No. 1, \$18; D stock and better, \$30 to \$31; No. 1 stock and better, \$33 to \$35. Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers held a joint meeting, on the 17th inst., but it was decided to take no decisive step on the price question as yet. It seems to be generally understood, however, that there will soon be an advance in the price of low grade pine.

Hardwood prices remain at about the same basis. In Michigan the hardwood production for the present winter will be about 75 per cent. of what it was one year ago, divided as follows: Ash, 40 per cent.; elm, 70; basswood, 60; birch, 75; maple, 75; red oak, 60; and beech, 125 per cent. On the other hand, it is estimated that in Wisconsin the cut will equal if not exceed that of one year ago.

Lath prices keep firm. In Chicago No. 1 dry white pine lath sells at \$4.50, and at Buffalo and Tonawanda from \$4.50 to \$5. In the New England States spruce lath is quoted at \$3. Although the demand for shingles is not active, prices are steady. The stock of shingles in Michigan at the present time is not believed to exceed 25 per cent. of that of one year ago, this being true of both 16 and 18 inch pine and cedars.

FOREIGN.

Prices of wood goods in the British market have shown no important changes within the past week. The stock of deals and battens at the leading importing centers is steadily becoming reduced, but there is some fear that the present high prices may result in a falling off of consumption. At recent auction sales prices have been well maintained. Consumers are each day becoming more convinced that the present prices are likely to rule for some time to come, and as a result are

showing a greater disposition to contract for their requirements.

Lumber is in good demand in the West Indies. At Barbados white pine is selling at \$22.50 per thousand for first quality, and \$17 for second quality. Spruce of first quality brings \$19.50, and spruce scantling \$14. Gaspé cedar shingles are quoted at \$3.50, cedar laying at \$2.40, and spruce laying at \$2.27.

NEW BRUNSWICK CEDAR SHINGLES.

The New Brunswick shingle market remains unchanged. There are a few sales being recorded at standard values. There is some little inquiry awakening in the country districts, mostly for the lower grades. The city dealers are still quite lethargic. There is no doubt as to the firmness of the market. The fact that the manufacturers have gone through two such quiet months as the last without any price cutting shows very clearly that they are absolutely determined to maintain present prices, and it is also a strengthening element of the situation. Spring trade is apparently going to be slow in starting this year, for the reason that the majority of the dealers bought quite largely last autumn, and have as a consequence fair stocks on hand. The early demand, therefore, will likely be for clears and 2nd clears for the country trade. As the Pacific coast shingles are firm at \$3.20 on Boston rates New Brunswick cedars are sure to have the call when business opens. Quotations are as follows, delivered at Boston: Extras, \$3.10 to \$3.15; clears, \$2.65 to \$2.75; 2nd clears, \$2.15 to \$2.25; saps, \$2.10 to \$2.20, in mixed cars. Straight cars of extras are being sold at \$3.00, but we hear of absolutely nothing lower.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

There is a lull in the lumber business in this center at present, but the lumbermen are confident that they are approaching a season of great activity. No further large sales are reported, and it is understood that the mill owners are holding off for even higher prices, believing that the cut of some of the mills will be short, as the winter operations are restricted by the recent unsatisfactory weather. Should this be the case, foreign buyers will be compelled to raise their figures, and the mill owners now holding out will profit by the position they have taken.

Although the winter on the whole has been a rather poor one for lumbering operations, reports from various limits would indicate that the work of getting out the logs is progressing favorably. Many of the mills last season cut all the logs in stock, so that they must necessarily depend on the supply now being taken off the limits. A reliable authority places the probable increase of the coming summer's cut over last season's at 20 per cent., or about 1,000,000 feet. J. R. Booth, Gilmour & Hughson and other extensive manufacturers worked their mills to their utmost capacity last year, and cannot increase their cut this year, hence the increase will not be as great as present indications might seem to show.

One proof of the extent of the present bush operations is seen in the fact that the Hull Axe Company is unable to keep up with orders. The output of this factory is 12 dozen axes per day, but this does not more than partially satisfy the extra demand made by the Ottawa firms. Ottawa dealers in lumbermen's supplies, clothing, provisions, etc., also report a greatly increased trade with the camps.

Mr. A. E. Dymont, M. P., of Thessalon, Ont., has arrived in the Capital for the session. Mr. Dymont, who represents Algoma, states that the lumbering operations in the Georgian Bay district are unusually active. From another reliable source it is learned that the increase is even greater than it is in the Ottawa valley, amounting to fully 40 per cent.

The output of square timber by Ottawa firms for the English market this coming season will, according to official figures, be only 400,000 cubic feet. In 1899 the amount sent over was 5,000,000 feet, showing in eleven years the surprising decrease of 92 per cent. Ottawa lumbermen now find it much more profitable to manufacture the square timber in their own mills into board lengths and sizes. The English trade in these has increased in proportion to the decrease in the demand for square timber. Gilmour & Hughson, a firm that formerly cut a large quantity of deals for the English market, will this year cut none, confining themselves to cutting thinner stock. In manufacturing the timber into board sizes themselves, the Ottawa mill men find there is little or no waste, while the English market can be supplied with even more satisfaction.

McKee & Co., of Ottawa, dealers in mill men's supplies, report that inquiries based on the coming season's operations are numerous,

indicating the probability of increased activity.

Mr. E. C. Grant, of the Ottawa Lumber Company, has just returned from a prolonged visit in the British Isles. Mr. Grant reports that the prospects for an increased trade with the British market were never better.

As yet few American or English buyers have put in an appearance in Ottawa, but it is expected they will shortly arrive.

Hurdman & Elmitt, the Rideau Lumber Co., and other firms interested in the wholesale lumber business, report that the market remains firm, with no marked demand for any special lines. Pine box culls have advanced from \$13 to \$14 per thousand for best stock, and pine mill culls have advanced from \$11 to \$12 for best grade. Lath, sidings and strips show no advance, the same applying to hardwood.

J. O. D. Latour & Co., a firm operating a line of towing and passenger boats on the Kippewa, are endeavoring to sell out the business, which is a flourishing one.

OTTAWA, February 26th, 1900.

LARGE LUMBER PURCHASE.

Mr. E. H. Lemay, wholesale lumber merchant, of Montreal, has just closed a contract with McLachlin Bros., of Arnprior, Ont., for the purchase of their entire production of white pine to be cut during the ensuing season. It is understood that this will be about 65,000,000 feet, and the transaction represents a consideration of about \$1,000,000. The lumber manufactured by McLachlin Bros. is second to none in Canada or the United States, and is noted for its fine appearance, smooth sawing, and the splendid way in which it is buttled. These considerations have made for it name in the British market. The above firm have also gained a reputation for the careful manner in which they handle their lumber and protect it from the weather. The bulk of the pine purchased will be exported to Great Britain and the United States.

As previously announced, Mr. Lemay has secured the pine deal contract for the road department of the city of Montreal. The deals required for this work are all 11 inches wide, and will probably reach in quantity about 2,000,000 feet.

THE LIVERPOOL MARKET.

The arrivals from British North America during the past month, says Farnworth & Jardine, of Liverpool, have been 5,070 tons register, against 3,320 tons register during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1898, 1899 and 1900 has been 21,739, 15,487, and 15,752 tons respectively. The business of the past month has been steady, with little fluctuation in values to report. The arrivals have been fairly moderate, the deliveries generally satisfactory, and stocks all round are comparatively light. Owing to the strong advance in values demanded for Canadian woods little progress up to the present has been made in contracting for next season.

PINE TIMBER.—OF WANNEY the deliveries have been fairly satisfactory, and the stock is now very light. Values are firm, and for next season much higher prices are quoted. SQUARE continues in limited request, and the stock is sufficient. RED PINE: There is little enquiry; the stock is small. OAK: There has been rather more enquiry, and values are firmer; the deliveries have been fair, but stocks, though not heavy, are sufficient for present requirements. ELM is in a strong position, prices high, and the stocks light. ASH is in limited demand and there is very little in stock. PINE DEALS have moved off more freely, there has been more enquiry, and considerable sales have been made from yarded stocks at improved values. The stock, however, is still large, but consists chiefly of oddments. RED PINE DEALS continue in good request at firm prices.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA

Wanted for Export

ALL KINDS OF

LOGS AND LUMBER

PAYMENT BY MONTREAL BANKERS

Denny, Mott & Dickson
LONDON, ENG.

SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS.—The import amounts to 1,800 standards, about the same as corresponding month last year. The deliveries have been fairly large, and stocks being further reduced, are now in a moderate compass. There is no change in value to report. As shippers' ideas are very firm, contracting in this market has been slow, though a few contracts have been negotiated. PINE DEALS have improved in value; stocks are fair.

BIRCH.—From St. John, N.B., by steamer, has been imported freely; there has been a good consumption at steady values, but the stock has increased, and is now sufficient. PLANKS: There has been a large import, but coming on practically a bare market, has met ready sale at fair prices. Stocks are not large, but further supplies are about due.

The sales during the past month have been as follows: BIRCH TIMBER.—ST. JOHN 14 3/8 inches average, at 18 3/4 d. per cubic foot; 1 1/4 inches average, at 18 1/2 d. per cubic foot. PLANKS at about £8 12/6 per standard c. i. f.

QUEBEC PINE DEALS.—3rd quality Oddments at £8 14/- per standard.

SPRUCE DEALS.—ST. JOHN, £7 15/ to £8 per standard c. i. f.

Following are current quotations:

	Per Foot.
White pine, Quebec square wood	15 3d to 25 4d
" " Waney board	25 2d to 25 10d
" " St. John, 18-in. average	15 6d to 25 2d
" " Dalhousie, etc.	15 0d to 15 4d
Red pine	15 5d to 15 10d
Oak, 1st quality	25 9d to 25 0d
" 2nd quality	15 6d to 25 0d
Elm	25 5d to 25 10d
Ash	15 6d to 25 0d
Whitewood	15 4d to 15 10d
Birch, St. John	15 5d to 15 8d
" Quebec	15 5d to 25 0d
" Nova Scotia, etc.	15 2d to 15 6d
" planks	05 11d to 15 1d
	Per Std.
	£ s. d.
Deals, Quebec, white, 1st quality	20 0 to 24 0
" " " 2nd quality	16 10 to 17 10
" " " 3rd quality	10 00 to 10 10
Spruce deals, St. John, Miramichi, etc.	7 15 to 8 00
" " Nova Scotia, etc.	7 10 to 7 15
" boards, etc.	6 15 to 7 0

ENQUIRIES FOR WOOD PRODUCTS.

The following were among the enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London, Eng., during two weeks ending 10th February:

13. Enquiry is made for names of firms in Canada manufacturing furniture for export; also for firms who manufacture tallow and grease for export.

14. An important London house doing a large commission business in Canadian products are desirous of corresponding with exporters of wood pulp, evaporated apples, tinned salmon, etc.

Canadian manufacturers may open up correspondence with any of the firms making the above enquiries by addressing a letter to the publishers of the CANADA LUMBERMAN. When writing refer to the number of the enquiry.

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Special Facilities for Dressing Lumber in Transit.

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