

## OSWEGO, N.Y.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Note change in quotations in ash, basswood and lath. The spring trade is much improved, but the stocks here are very much broken; dealers are looking for a good trade on the opening of the canal.

Three uppers.....	24 00@46 00
Picking.....	25 00@26 00
Cutting up.....	24 00@26 00
Fine Common.....	22 00@25 00
Common.....	14 00@18 00
Culls.....	11 00@14 00
Mill run lots.....	16 00@22 00
Slidings, selected, 1 in.....	30 00@35 00
Slidings, 1 1/2 in.....	32 00@36 00
Mill run, 1x10, 13 to 16 ft.....	18 00@21 00
Selected.....	21 00@24 00
Shippers.....	14 00@16 00
Mill run, 1x10.....	17 00@20 00
Selected.....	21 00@24 00
Shippers.....	14 00@16 00
Mill run, 1 & 1 1/2 in, strips.....	15 00@18 00
Selected.....	22 00@25 00
Culls.....	11 00@13 00
1x6 selected for clapboards.....	25 00@28 00
Shingles, XXX, 18 in. pine.....	3 10@ 3 50
XXX Cedar.....	2 75@ 3 00
Lath 1 1/2, No 1.....	1 55@ 1 80
No 2.....	1 00@ 1 25
Ash, 1st & 2nd 1 to 4 in.....	16 00@20 00
Basswood, 1st & 2nd, 1 & 1 1/2 inch.....	18 00@20 00
Culls.....	8 00@11 00

## GLASGOW.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of April 3rd says:—The arrivals of wood goods at Clyde ports continue light, comprising for the past week one cargo of pitch pine and sundry small imports of oak planks, staves, etc., per steamers.

The only public sales to note is one of deals, which took place here at Yorkhill Wharf, on 25th ult., Messrs. Edmiston & Mitchell brokers.

There was a fair attendance; advantage was taken of the recently opened underground railway, which, having a station at Yorkhill, affords a convenience for buyers coming to the sales. The catalogue submitted comprised Michigan pine deals and Quebec and lower port spruce deals; only a small proportion changed hands the demand being very quiet.

The output from the Clyde shipbuilding yards for March was nine vessels, 8,169 tons, an unusually small monthly return. For the quarter the tonnage launched amounts to 28,666 tons, as against 38,316 tons in 1885, and 63,809 tons in 1884 at corresponding date. It is some satisfaction to note, however, that of the work in hand there is a substantial increase, as compared with the state of matters in March, 1885, it being computed that there are at present in the course of construction over eighty vessels, of all kinds, representing, in aggregate, some 150,000 tons, as against between 50 and 60 vessels, of about 90,000 tons in March of last year.

Among the applications granted at the last meeting of the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court was one of some importance, by the Glasgow Athenæum (Limited), to take down existing buildings and erect new buildings in St. George's Place. The new Athenæum is estimated to cost about £15,000.

The following is a note of prices:—

Michigan 1st pine deals—	Per c. ft.
16 ft. 7/10x3	2s. 8d.
12 to 18 " 10/24x2 1/2	3s. 3d.
Do. 2nd—	
12 to 18 ft. 11/20x2 1/2	2s. 1d.
St. John, N. B., spruce deals—	
22 ft. 9x2	0s. 9 1/2d.
17 " 9x	0s. 9 1/2d.
12 & 14 " 9x3	0s. 9d.
11 " 9x3	0s. 9 1/2d.
9 & 10 " 9x3	0s. 8 1/2d.
Dorchester, N. B., spruce deals—	
18 to 22 ft. 11x3	0s. 10 1/2d.
16 " 9x3	0s. 9 1/2d.
Do. Battens—	
9 to 11 ft. 6 7/8x2 1/2	0s. 7 1/2d.
Do. ends—	
2 to 8 ft.	0s. 7 1/2d.
Shediac, N. B., spruce deals—	
12 & 14 ft. 9x3	0s. 9 1/2d.

## LIVERPOOL.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of April 3rd says:—With a total absence of public sales during the past week there has been but little animation shown in the whitewood market, though an improvement in the demand is perhaps perceptible. This, of course, is in a measure attributable to the sudden change in the weather, which has affected the building trade

by affording it a chance of building into life, though we are sorry to say it appears by no means in a vigorous condition.

Though the general grumble all round of the bad state of trade loses nothing of intensity, yet locally there is an impression that we may have now seen the worst and live in hopes that the "good time coming," which has been so long deferred, may soon be within view. At present buyers are still holding off the market, presumably in the hope that, if prices do not go lower than they are now, they will, at any rate, not advance materially; but really the market rates have dropped to such a depth that any slight disturbance of the position might cause an advance before the over-cautious buyer dares to make a move.

The stocks on hand of the principal articles in the market, notably yellow pine timber, spruce deal, Norwegian flooring, and other goods, compare favorably with those held at this time last year, and holders of spruce deals especially are inclined to be firmer in their demands than they have been for some time past.

## LONDON.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of April 3rd says:—Business seems to be very quiet around the coast, but some fair lines have been sold during the past week at current prices, and very considerable sales of good stocks could have been made had sellers been disposed to give way in their quotations. The amount of sales effected for leading makes compares very favorably with last year's statistics, and we believe that the total quantity placed this season equals or exceeds that sold during a similar period last year. Sellers, therefore, feel themselves justified in maintaining a firm attitude, especially considering the lateness of the season, and the fact that many leading importers, both in England and France, have not yet filled a tithe of their requirements.

London buyers seem holding back as much as ever, and we learn of little f.o.b. business being actually effected, although agents have done their best to carry contracts through. When dealers here can purchase at auction ordinary goods at 10s. to 15s. less than it would cost to import, it is hardly to be expected that they will purchase on f.o.b. terms until they can see their way clearer than is possible at present. This condition of affairs is likely to continue so long as over-production forces shippers to send forward to the London market unsold goods, which are either sold to arrive at excessively low rates, or knocked down at auction at ruinous prices.

Things are very quiet at the sales; and many of those attending being onlookers, although now and again putting in a bid, the proceedings were unmarked by any animation beyond what always appertains to goods put up without reserve by public auction. We noticed that one or two large dealers who were not buyers last week, were again in the field, and one of them went in for considerable lines, probably influenced by the fact that he got them nearly all at his own price, competition being of the most limited kind.

On Thursday the attendance at the saleroom was rather better, and if there was any difference, the back benches struck us as being better filled; but we cannot say the same of prices. If these were equal to those of the day before, it was as much as they were. The Goffs deals, ex Abena, went fairly well for mixed, as did the 3rd plank; but the Petersburg best yellow Gromoff's, did not reach £12, and most of the other descriptions and sizes were equally cheap.

Flooring prices ruled low, though we were glad to observe that now and again a reserved lot was bid for; but this is very little to go upon, and merely indicates that sellers have put the limit pretty much on a level with market rates. Mr. Alexander B. Sim occupied the rostrum, and the sale, notwithstanding that prices ruled low, did not hang about much, the bidding at times being fairly active.

Nobody seemed to have an encouraging report of the outside market doings, and we hear on all sides that the building trade is even worse than it was last spring.

In the Canadian trade, says the *Journal* of

March 27th, things seem to be going on in the even tenor of their way. We have just heard that a couple of vessels have been chartered by Messrs. Bryant, Powis & Bryant, limited, Three Rivers to London, all deals, at 47s. 6d., the charter we recorded last week also being for the same firm. We may observe, en passant, it is very seldom that any hardwood is shipped from Three Rivers. At the present rates of freight shipowners must be out of pocket. How long this will last it is difficult to tell, but at present there are no signs of any improvement. The shippers from the other side of the Atlantic, who generally pay the mother country a spring visit, appear to be making a longer stay than usual in the metropolis. Amongst those whose names have come under notice now in town are Mr. Dobell, Mr. Burstall, Mr. Murphy, all from Quebec, the lower ports being represented by Mr. Snowball, of Miramichi, and Mr. Girouard, of Betsiawitz. Mentioning the spruce ports reminds us that, though this class of wood continues dull, Mr. Snowball has nevertheless made his usual contract with the Leadenhall street firm.

Considerable quantities of pine deals have been sold for forward delivery at satisfactory prices. The market in London continues to be well sustained, especially in the lower qualities, stocks of which are about to be somewhat limited. The demand for fourth pine appears to have grown with the supply. A few years back this quality was unknown, and now it is inquired for on all sides. Thirds also have become a staple article of consumption amongst users of pine.

## WOOD-WORKING PATENTS.

The following list of patents relating to the wood-working interests, granted by the United States Patent Office, March 30th, 1886, is specially reported by Franklyn H. Hough, solicitor of American and Foreign patents, 925 F. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

- 338,967—Morticing machine—A. J. Heuse, Baltimore, Md.
  - 338,967—Planing and matching machine—C. Johnson, Jr., Baltimore, Md.
  - 338,787—Saw filing machine—S. C. Rogers, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
  - 339,000—Saw mill, reciprocating—H. McEvilla, Muskegon, Mich.
  - 338,884—Saw mills, log pusher for—R. W. Shelburne, Blandville, Ky.
  - 338,693—Saw setting device—C. J. Belch, East Minneapolis, Minn.
  - 339,020—Saw vice—O. Seely, Syracuse, N. Y.
- PATENTS ISSUED APRIL 6.
- 339,195—Boring machine, square hole—A. E. & J. C. Lake, Big Prairie, O.
  - 339,554—Boring tool and holder, combined—S. P. Graham, Galt, Ont.
  - 339,109—Lumber, compound—J. Marris, Philadelphia, Pa.
  - 339,433—Saw mill, band—C. Esplin, Minneapolis, Minn.
  - 339,576—Saw sharpening machine—L. O. Orton, Philadelphia, Pa.
  - 339,314—Turning wooden spirals, machine for—V. Merkle, New York, N. Y.

The *Muskoka Herald* says:—The Mills of the Georgian Bay will manufacture this year 203,500,000 feet of lumber. In addition to this there will be 16,500,000 feet, for export in log. The cut at Gravenhurst and vicinity will be 52,500,000 feet at the mills of Severn, Lethbridge and Longford will turn out 22,000,000 feet of lumber. The cut of board pine on the Georgian Bay, Muskoka and Severn rivers, including a small quantity of square timber on the Severn, will be about 1,532,000 feet. This is a large cut and it looks as if the manufacturers expect better times in the lumber trade.

JOHN A. A. BENSON, representative of the Watrous Engine Works Company, of Brantford, who has just returned from North Bay, via Ottawa and the C. P. R., having driven from Gravenhurst across through Muskoka and Parry Sound district, reports sales in their line good. Jobbers are happy, the winter being as if it was made to order, and snow is plentiful from the terminus of the Northern to the Dominion capital.

## LUMBER IN ALASKA.

The *Alaskan*, of Sitka, Alaska, in its issue of February 27th, remarked as follows:—

The lumber question, unless congress gives us at once some legislation which will authorize the purchase of timber lands, or timber, in Alaska, is going to be a very serious one, and produce much trouble in the immediate future. Letters from Juneau mention the fact that a great deal of building would now be going on there, but for the fact that there is no lumber at all on hand. There can be no doubt that a large influx of population will commence next month; indeed the tide has already begun to set in. It is certain that works looking to the thorough development, and continued operation of several ledges which have thus far been worked only to the amount of the necessary annual assessment labor, and designed by the ledge owners, will be commenced as soon as the material can be got together. Every year adds something to the known placer area of the territory. All this steady growth of the mining enterprises carries with it a corresponding increase in all kinds of business used to a growing country, and there is no article the importance of which is more felt than lumber. It seems indeed hard that the facilities which might be so easily made available here, to the rapid opening up of the country, should be denied to the people, and that the territory should remain still a monument not only of the perfidy of the government which owns it, but of the loss and detriment which such perfidy carries with it. Honesty is the best policy, and the United States would soon be enjoying a happy realization of the truth of the proverb in the income from Alaska, if it would but try its application to the development of the territory, by the simple accordance of just and equal laws with those enjoyed by all the people elsewhere.

The *Seattle Chronicle*, of a late date, had the following:

By a recent order of the interior department saw mills in Alaska are not permitted to cut logs and manufacture the same into lumber, except for the personal use of the proprietors of the saw mills. The order is based on the fact that there are no land laws in that territory, and no person can acquire ownership to real property. The only person who have title to real estate are a few Russians who owned land in Sitka at the time of the transfer of the territory to the United States. Of course the transfer did not deprive them of the title to their land. The effect of the order has been to close the five saw mills in Alaska. The largest was located at Wrangell and had a cutting capacity of about 20,000 feet a day; another was near Sitka, with a capacity of 8,000 a day. The five mills had a total capacity of 80,000 feet a day when in full operation. There is at present considerable demand for lumber in Alaska, particularly at Juneau City, where a cargo of 500,000 feet would be snapped up in double quick time at from \$25 to \$30 a thousand. There is a considerable influx of prospectors and miners into the country, which will cause an increased demand for lumber. The shipment of lumber there, at least for a time, would undoubtedly be exceedingly profitable. The sailing vessel on her return trip, could put in at Glacier bay and load with magnificent ice cut from one of the natural wonders of the earth—a great glacier breaking off by small degrees and falling into the sea. This ice could be cut and sold at handsome rates in the markets of Victoria, Seattle and Portland, where natural, thick, pure ice is an unknown thing.

## "Foreign Trade Gazette."

The *Foreign Trade Gazette* is the name of a monthly journal recently established in New York and devoted to international, commercial and financial topics. It is printed in English and Spanish, the same intelligence being printed in parallel columns, one column being in English and the other Spanish. At present the United States has the bulk of the trade with the countries in the Americas, in which Spanish is the prevailing language—the West Indies, and Central and South America—but we hope to see the Canadian trade with these countries increased.