

stock of coarse grades that no difficulty is anticipated in disposing of the balance at fair prices. Of first-class lumber the quantity on hand in the Ottawa valley yet unsold is said to be the smallest for twenty years, due largely to the good demand from England. Little change has taken place in the white pine situation, although a few small purchases have recently been made by Buffalo wholesalers. The outlook for building operations, which consume considerable white pine, is not the brightest in several of the larger cities, but from the different towns and throughout the country a satisfactory report is received.

#### QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Operations in the woods in New Brunswick are very active, being stimulated by an abundance of snow. With a few more weeks of favorable weather the output of logs will be of an average size. The latest reports from the British market are of an encouraging nature, stocks of N. B. and N. S. spruce being light and the demand good. During the past week some shipments have been made to the United States, but the demand from that source is not brisk. In the province of Quebec sufficient snow for hauling is also reported. There is a very moderate local demand, with a slight improvement for foreign shipment.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MANITOBA.

The export lumber trade in British Columbia continues to improve, and several new vessel charters are reported for foreign ports. The list of charters shows a large business well distributed, and the docks present an unusual scene of activity for the month of February. There is evidently a desire to purchase supplies before the combination lately announced shall be put into operation. From present indications the combine will not have all smooth sailing, it being announced that the Victoria Lumber Co. are about to re-open their mill at Chemainus, and fight the trust. The company owns 150,000 acres of timber land, and is composed principally of Americans. From a well-informed source it is learned that the combine only embraces four British Columbia mills, and is therefore not as strong as it was believed to be so far as that province is concerned. In Manitoba manufacturers are preparing for a good spring trade, but little movement is reported as yet. Better prices are anticipated this season, as the formation of the British Columbia combine will remove to some extent the keen competition from that source.

#### UNITED STATES.

Since our last report the American market has not brightened to the extent anticipated, and few indications are observable that the trade has made much headway as a result of the successful bond issue. In some features, however, there are promising signs, several of the larger consuming industries showing evidences of revival. It is a feature of note that manufacturers and dealers seem confident of a good lumber trade when the season has well set in. The movement of lumber at Tonawanda and Buffalo has slightly increased, while in Michigan a sale is reported amounting to 15,000,000 feet. In hardwoods red and quarter-sawn oak receives most inquiry. At New York there are indications of a lively season, the amount which will be expended in

building operations this year being estimated at \$100,000,000. A fair movement is reported at Boston and other eastern points. In white pine fields little buoyancy is experienced, but a year much more satisfactory than 1895 is confidently expected.

#### FOREIGN.

Of Canadian spruce in Great Britain the Timber Trades Journal says: "Prices are firm, but business seems quiet. Third spruce brings £6 12s. 6d. to £6 15s., with 10s. less for fourths. The over-winter stock is small, and there seems no likelihood of any retrocession in the market, as the demand must take an active turn when the season gets further advanced. The absence of wane in even the commoner kinds of spruce gives it the preference over other cheap kinds." Quebec birch is also reported to be again coming into request, owing to the high price of mahogany, and stocks on hand are small. Denny, Mott & Dickson's wood report, dated 4th February, says of Canadian timber: "The London demand for both waney and square yellow pine has been quiet, but the anticipation of activity on the shipbuilding rivers serves to keep prices very firm, and strengthens the hands of Canadian agents, who are booking orders for next season's supplies at a decided advance on the high prices of last year." At Liverpool there seems to be a steady demand for birch timber and planks. The spruce supply is also gradually diminishing, and prices are likely to advance. In South America the trade is decidedly quiet, and little demand is reported.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

##### CANADA.

Button & Fessaut, of Wingham, Ont., have purchased \$6,000 worth of logs.

Large quantities of ties are being taken out in Manitoulin Island by the Rathbun Co.

30,000,000 feet of lumber are in stock in M. M. Boyd & Co.'s yards at Little Bob.

The steamer St. John City, now at St. John, N. B., will take 100 loads of birch and some deals to England.

The firm of Hale & Booth are getting out this winter about 300,000 cubic feet of timber, and 25,000,000 feet of logs.

J. F. Hamilton, of St. John, N. B., shipped last week to New York, per sch. Tay, 109,855 feet spruce plank, and 305,500 laths.

Large quantities of heavy hewn birch timber are being taken out at Sussex Station, N. B., which will be sent to England via the Beaver line.

The probable output of lumber of the St. Anthony Lumber Co.'s mills at Whitney, Ont., during the coming summer, will be about 50,000,000 feet.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands for Quebec will offer for sale at Hull, on the 18th inst., several miles of timber land in the Agency of Upper Ottawa.

It is said that Mr. Parson, of Golden Lake, Ont., has contracted with an Ottawa firm for some twenty-five cars of dimension timber to be delivered at different points in New York.

The Ottawa and Aylmer Railway and Bridge Co., Albert st., Ottawa, are asking tenders until the 10th of March for the supply of 12,000 good, sound, standard

railway ties, of hemlock, cedar, and tamarac, to be delivered before April 10th next, at points between Hintonburg and Britannia. Dimensions, 8 ft. long, 6 in. thick, not less than 6 in. face.

S. Swanton, of Lindsay, is inspecting 25,000 cedar posts and a large quantity of pulp wood, ties, telegraph poles, etc., stored along the Haliburton and Coboconk railway lines. In all Mr. Swanton has contracted for 200,000 cedar posts, 30,000 of which will be supplied by M. A. Hopkins, of Kinmount, and 10,000 by Jos. Brisbin, of Rettie's Station. Shipping will start about the middle of March.

Mr. MacGrady, Crown timber agent for that portion of the Ottawa district in the province of Quebec, states that on the Gatineau river there will be a decided falling off in the output of logs this winter, as MacCracken & Boyle and Lague & Cox are not operating. Last year the former firm had two shanties working, and besides received logs from 71 jobbers, who had each two or three men employed. Messrs. Gilmour & Hughson and Messrs. W.C. Edwards & Co. are operating on about the same extent as last year on that river, the former taking out about 500,000 pieces, and the latter about 300,000. On the Temiscamingue and Kippewa rivers the operations are about the same as last winter, and on the Colonge they are more extensive, on account of Messrs. Bryson & Fraser working several new shanties.

#### UNITED STATES.

Col. A. T. Bliss will take cut 14,000,000 feet of logs to stock his Carrollton mill.

The Meiklejohn & Hatten Lumber Co., of New London, Wis., is receiving 15 carloads of white pine logs per day.

D. C. Pelton, of Cheboygan, Mich., has purchased 4,000,000 feet of logs from Holister, Jewell & Co., of Oshkosh, Wis.

Penoyer Bros., of Bay City, Mich., report having sold 2,500,000 feet of lumber at \$22 straight, and 1,500,000 feet of Norway at a good figure. They expect to cut 40,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

A dispatch from Jackson, Ky., states that C. E. Smith, of Richmond, Ky., representing New York parties, is placing a contract for 40,000,000 feet of oak timber from the head of Kentucky Creek, a tributary of the Kentucky river.

#### SHIPPING MATTERS.

A ship, 1047 tons, has been chartered, Quebec to Liverpool, timber, 19s.; chartered abroad.

The ship Karoo has been chartered to load deals at West Bay, N. B., for west coast England at 40s.

The ship Indus has been chartered to load deals at Cambellton, N. B., for Ireland or Marseilles, at 40s. or 55 francs respectively.

Ship Z. Ring has been chartered to load deals at Grindstone Island, Herring Cove or West Bay for west coast England at 40s. spring loading.

The Beaver line boat Lake Winnipeg sailed from St. John, for Liverpool, Eng., on the 20th inst., with 10,000 maple blocks and 300 standards of deals.

The first steamer chartered to load deals at St. John, N. B., is the Palmas, 1,540 tons, by Wm. Thomson & Co., at 40s., to the west coast England.

From Digby, N. B., the schooner Shafner Bros. has cleared for Boston with wood and piling. Bark Ethel Clarke has finished loading lumber at Bear river for Cienfuegos.

The steamship Vancouver sailed from Portland, Me., on the 13th inst. The Canadian portion of her cargo was valued at \$132,453, among which were the following: 2,439 wooden doors, 986 maple blocks, 50 bundles of staves, 605 deals, 1,610 packages of handles, 175 crates of pulleys, and 90 logs.

#### THE SITUATION.

REFLECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OF THE "WEEKLY LUMBERMAN."

A. S. Schryer, Ridgetown, Ont.: Car oak is in good demand, also white ash cut to sizes. Prices remain firm, and the output of logs will be of an average size.

W. Harris, Day Mills, Ont.: Stocks are moving actively at the local mills in this locality, the demand coming principally from farmers for hemlock stock.

R. H. Klock & Co., Klock's Mills, Ont.: Good strips and sidings are in most demand, and prices advancing. Stocks in hand are small, being mostly pine, mill run.

M. F. Beach & Co., Winchester, Ont.: Pine and ash have received most call. Large quantities of ash, with some elm, are in stock, medium quality log run. Prices show a tendency to decline, and large quantities of logs are being taken out.

McCall & Mason, St. Williams, Ont.: Red oak, chestnut, pine and basswood are in most demand. Have recently sold 80 M ft. elm, log run, at \$9. Stocks are large and of an average class, being chiefly hardwood. We will saw this season about 600,000 ft. of pine and hardwood.

S. Gillies, Ailsa Craig, Ont.: Have recently sold \$15,000 worth of bass. Our stocks consist of 200 M feet bass, 200 M ft. soft elm, 100 M ft. rock elm, 600 M ft. white oak, and 50 M ft. hard maple. There seems to be little improvement in prices, but we hope for an advance in the spring.

F. Deutschmann, Teeswater, Ont.: Soft elm is in most demand and good stocks scarce. Hemlock for barn order is moving freely. Have sold cedar for bridging at \$12, but customers are slow contracting. Stocks consist principally of one and two inch maple, two-inch elm, one and two-inch hemlock, with some one-inch ash and basswood. Have many inquiries, but few sales are effected, everybody apparently waiting for a better movement in the spring.

J. Lawrence & Sons, Watford, Ont.: Our manufacture consists of staves, heading, etc., for which prices are very firm, and likely to advance, as stocks are light. Last year we cut over three million feet of elm logs into staves, which were sold at a good figure. Have made sales of three million staves at an advance over last year's prices. Should there be a good crop of fruit, it is doubtful if the supply of No. 2 staves will be equal to the demand, and mill men must get a considerable advance.

#### THE IMPORT LUMBER DUTY.

The developments of the past couple of weeks in regard to the threatened imposition of an import duty on lumber entering the United States have left little doubt as to the outcome of the proposed tariff. It now seems quite evident that the bill will not become law. Speaking of the question, the Northwestern Lumberman, of Chicago, says: "In Congress it is exceedingly evident that no remedial financial legislation will occur this session, late action in the Senate on the tariff bill pointing to that outcome."

#### BUSINESS DIFFICULTIES AND CHANGES.

W. H. Beardsley, lumber, Trail, B. C., has sold out to D. J. Mossman.

Efforts are being made by J. S. Atkinson, lumber merchant, of Albert, N. B., to secure a compromise at 40 cents on the dollar.

#### MILLS

Having Brown Ash 12, 14 and 16 ft. firsts and seconds, inch Bass firsts and seconds 12 feet, or any other Hardwood Lumber, can sell same for cash by addressing

H. D. WIGGIN,

No 89 State St., Boston, Mass.  
Inspection at mill.