

CANADIAN LUMBER IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Farnworth & Jardine, of Liverpool, in their monthly circular, say that the arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 37,588 tons register, against 29,861 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 399,076, 407,418, and 431,063 tons respectively. The business generally of the past month has been quiet. The arrivals have again been on a large scale, but the deliveries have been fairly satisfactory, and stocks, with the exception of spruce deals, and pitch pine, are not too large. There is no marked change in values to report.

Pine Timber.—Of Waney there has been a light import, the consumption has been satisfactory, values continue very firm, and stocks are small. Prime wood continues in good request at high prices, and there is little stock in first hands; second-class has also improved in value, but the demand is limited. **Square.**—The arrivals have not been large, but with only a moderate demand stocks are sufficient. **Red Pine.**—There have been no arrivals, the demand is quiet; stocks are not heavy. Oak has been imported in small quantities, there has been rather more enquiry, values rule firm, and the stock of prime wood is low. Elm continues in demand, prices are very high, but stocks are now increasing. **Ash.**—There has been more enquiry for sizable wood; stocks are light. Pine deals have arrived rather more freely, and there has been fair enquiry; the deliveries have been fairly satisfactory, values are strong, and stocks are reduced to a moderate compass, viz., about 9,000 standards, against 14,200 standards for the corresponding month last year. **Red Pine Deals.**—There is little change to report; prices are steady.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Spruce and Pine Deals.—The arrivals during the past month, although showing a marked decline on the previous month, are in excess of September, last year, viz., about 15,000 standards against 12,800 standards; the deliveries, however, have been satisfactory, and values have slightly recovered, but stocks are still too large. **Pine Deals.**—There is more enquiry, prices have improved, and the stock is light.

Birch.—Of logs the arrivals have been more moderate, but the deliveries have been disappointing, and values difficult to maintain; stocks are adequate. Planks have also been imported in moderation, and as there has been a very large consumption the stock is considerably reduced, but there is little improvement in prices to report.

DEPARTMENT STORES IN GERMANY.

A law has recently been passed in Germany having for its object the curtailment of the number and growth of department stores, or, at any rate, to equalize the chances of competition between them and the smaller houses. According to this new law, the various classes of merchandise are grouped under four heads:

- (1) Groceries, provisions, preserves, liquors, tobacco, apothecaries' supplies, colors and perfumery.
- (2) Yarn, upholstery goods, drapery, woven, knit and embroidered goods; underclothing, bedding, curtains, carpets, and household interior decorations.
- (3) Household, kitchen and garden utensils; stoves, glassware, porcelain, earthen and stone ware, and upholstered furniture.
- (4) Gold, silver, and other jewelry; objects of art or luxury, bric-a-brac, articles of paper or papier-mache, books, music, weapons, bicycles; articles of sport; sew-

ing machines, toys; optical, medical, scientific or musical instruments.

The four classes of merchandise correspond roughly to those usually found in this country in the stocks of dealers in groceries, dry goods, house furnishings and stationery.

Each establishment, from which articles enumerated under two or more of these groups shall be sold, and of which the sales amount to 400,000 marks (\$95,200), or more per year, is required by the new law to pay a special tax, graduated according to the total of its yearly business. Beginning with a rate of one per cent. on department stores whose annual turnover amounts to 400,000 marks, the tax increases progressively up to 2 per cent. on those whose sales attain a total of 1,000,000 marks, and thereafter an additional tax of 2,000 marks is exacted from them for every additional 100,000 marks of sales. The law is about as searching as could be devised short of absolute prohibition; but no doubt the great concentration of capital, which enables them to buy goods for cash and in large quantities, will still enable them to compete with the small tradesmen who require credit. It will still behoove the latter to work towards a better equipment, more perfect management, and a more systematized improvement of their resources.

—The new underground electric railroad in London, Eng., is reported to be a great success. It runs a distance of six miles, and the fare, any distance is 2d. It cost £3,500,000 to build, and it is estimated that, in order that a fair dividend may be paid, a daily average of 110,000 passengers will have to be carried. Judging from present prospects, this number will be reached.

—Mark—I saw that little boy of yours to-day. Burroughs—Did you? Think he's like me? Mark—Very much. Burroughs—Do you really? Mark—Yes; he asked me for some money.—Philadelphia Press.

THE Catholic School Commission, of Montreal, has issued its financial report for the year 1899—1900, which shows that the receipts were \$236,236, and the expenditure \$216,220, leaving the satisfactory balance of over \$20,000. The total number of children on the rolls is 19,207, with an average daily attendance of 14,783. The assets of the commission are put down as \$732,754, and the liabilities as \$435,538, or an excess of assets against liabilities of \$297,215. The commission has applied to the legislature for permission to issue new debentures to the amount of \$100,000, for the purpose of constructing a school in the new parish of St. Eusebius, which already has a large population.

—The authorities at Marquette, Mich., are considering a method of warming their water supply, which is derived from Lake Superior, by means of electrical heaters placed in the intake pipes. The rise in temperature contemplated, would only be sufficient to prevent freezing, which has been the cause of a great deal of trouble in the past. The plant required is said to be inexpensive.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Oct. 17th, 1900.

DRUGS, CHEMICALS, ETC.—Business in this line continues brisk, though nothing has come up since last week calling for special mention. Despatches from Liverpool say that the market there continues firm, owing to the high cost of fuel and raw material. Prices are likely to go

higher. Soda crystals are higher, and sulphate of copper liable to become so shortly.

DRY GOODS.—A fairly good trade has been transacted during the past few days. The tendency in all lines of cotton goods is still markedly active. Canadian manufacturers have announced a slight advance in the prices of balbriggan goods for spring. This is owing to the advance in cottons. The goods are made of Egyptian yarns, and as prices of the yarns are higher, it has been necessary to put up the price of the finished product. A large Manchester firm has notified the local trade that the prices of silicia and sleeve linings have been withdrawn, and that early outstanding prices for the goods will not now stand, owing to the advance in the price of cotton. Some time ago there was a slight drop in the prices of certain linings. It appears that the advance asked for them was too much and as they did not sell well, it was deemed advisable to offer reductions. Within the past week, prices have been restored as a result of the advance in cotton, which enters into their manufacture. Hosiery is advancing in price.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—There is not much change in the quotations this week, but we have referred to this subject in another place, and in more detail than is possible here.

GREEN FRUIT.—There is still, for this time of the year, a surprisingly large amount of fruit coming forward to this market. The demand for grapes has been simply enormous. We quote: Lemons, Malaga, \$4.25; fancy, \$3.50 to \$3.75; oranges, Jamaica, \$3.50; bananas, fancy, \$1.25 to \$1.75; tomatoes, 25c. per basket.

GROCERIES.—A fair amount of trade has been done this week. Elemie figs are a feature in the market, as stated last week, and large quantities of prunes are coming forward. Otherwise there is nothing noteworthy calling for comment.

HARDWARE.—Business in the shelf hardware line continues wonderfully good. We chronicled last week a drop in prices in a few lines. What we said then will apply now. In Glasgow, in the pig iron market, nothing of fresh interest has transpired lately, business having been quiet. Consumers continue to buy sparingly, and only when forced to do, as for immediate requirements.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Prices are somewhat firmer and some little business is being done. In the United States, the market for common hides holds steady, but no additional sales of importance are reported. A moderate amount of interest was shown by buyers, but they found importers showed no anxiety to make sales, as they held only moderate stocks, and were firm at full quoted prices. The market for city slaughter hides in Chicago remains steady, but no business of importance has been transacted. Offerings continued light, as salters had only small stocks on hand, and they held for full quoted values.

LEATHER.—Prices have not been changed since last quotations, though it is more than likely that an improvement will take place before long. Business conditions are by no means bad, but they are not as good as the situation would really warrant.

PROVISIONS.—In hog products, there is scarcity of stock, and great firmness prevails. There is good demand for eggs at about 17 to 18c. Cheese is a little easier.

WOOL.—Hardly anything is doing in wool in this market. In Boston, there has been a fair demand, mostly from the smaller mills making men's worsted and flannels. Stocks of the raw material are low, and present conditions favor a future active demand. Probably, however, little will be done until after the elections.