

which has already been contracted for by United States buyers, it seems certain that the demand this season will be large enough to consume all available stock. In sympathy with the United States market, lath prices are no more than holding firm. Shingles are exhibiting the usual strength incident to the approach of the spring season.

#### QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The strength of the spruce market is due largely to the active demand for lumber for shipment to the Eastern States. Spruce has to some extent replaced white pine, and it is anticipated that more than the usual quantity will this year find a market in the United States. By some it is predicted that prices will advance sharply before the new cut is in shipping condition. European trade is still somewhat uncertain. Shippers are indisposed to pay the high prices asked by manufacturers until they are more certain that prices in the British market will be maintained. Some purchases of South American specifications have recently been made at good figures. Present indications point to an early resumption of sawing operations. With a continuance of favorable weather conditions logs will be in the brooks and driving operations started by the first of April.

#### MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Remarkable activity characterizes the lumber industry of Western Canada. The prediction is made that the mills will not be able to supply the demand, but it does not seem probable that a dearth of lumber will be experienced. The large number of new mills that have been erected in British Columbia would seem to be sufficient to supply the increased demand arising from settlement in Manitoba and the Territories. Some fear is expressed that building operations will be hampered by labor difficulties, the carpenters of Winnipeg having already submitted an ultimatum to the contractors notifying them of a demand for an increased scale of wages.

#### UNITED STATES.

A heavy demand from Chicago for low grade white pine boards has developed. Buying in the Minneapolis district has reduced the supply to such a point that box manufacturers fear a famine in dry stock suitable for their purposes. Reports from manufacturers indicate that they are short of almost everything except No. 1 and No. 2 boards. This somewhat unexpected demand for the lower grades has created additional confidence in market conditions and brought about a buying movement on the part of dealers. Inquiries for stock to be shipped upon the opening of navigation have increased in lumber, notwithstanding that prices are about two dollars higher than at the opening of navigation one year ago. It is claimed that prices at eastern wholesale centres are still low when compared with the figures asked by manufacturers. A Buffalo dealer gives the following prices at which he sells inch white pine: Uppers, \$80; selects, \$70; fine common, \$58; No. 1 cuts, \$42; dressing, \$38; 12-inch No. 1 barn, \$32; No. 2 barn, \$27;

No. 3 barn, \$23; 12-inch box, \$20. These prices are said to represent no more than a fair margin of profit.

The hardwood market is in a very satisfactory condition. Inch quartered white oak has sold at unprecedented prices. Basswood leads in point of strength and scarcity, followed closely by elm. Maple is in moderate supply only, thick sizes being quite scarce.

Lath is slightly weaker and off-rings are more plentiful. In the Saginaw Valley No. 1 pine lath are held at \$3.75 and No. 2 at \$3.25. In Chicago quotations are \$3.50 for No. 1, \$3 for No. 1 Norway, and \$3.15 to \$3.25 for No. 1 mixed.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

The deadlock between the shippers and the British importers still exists. Much less than the usual quantity of stock has been contracted for. It is considered only a question of a short time before sellers and buyers will come together, although it is difficult to judge as to which side will give way. The conditions seem to favor the shippers, and particularly in respect to the Canadian supply, which will be unusually light on account of the large demand at home and in the United States. There is no change to report in white pine deals. A considerable quantity of red pine deals, 3x9, 4x9 and 3x11, have been placed for shipment from Montreal. The spruce market is steady. The stock of spruce deals in the Surrey Commercial Docks, London, is under half a million pieces. Agents of Canadian exporters are holding out for £9 15s c.i.f. London for 3x9 second quality spruce, £9 5s for third quality and £8 15s for fourth quality. It is reported that in one or two instances these prices have been shaded slightly, but this has been due to the inferior quality of the stock offered. At recent public sales second quality 3x9 spruce brought £10 5s, third quality £9 15s and second quality 3x7 £8.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

The Brompton Pulp & Paper Company took out about 12,000,000 feet of logs this season for their pulp mill at Brompton Falls, Que.

At Thomson Station, N. S., lumbering operations this season are unusually brisk. About 3,000,000 feet of lumber is now ready for shipment.

White pine shingles are held in the Saginaw Valley at \$4.35 for XXXX and \$3.25 for clear butts. White cedar 18-inch XXXX are quoted at \$4 and butts at \$2.75.

The Ontario Power Company, of Niagara Falls, Ont., is using California redwood for the construction of its pen-lock. It is estimated that 6,000,000 feet will be required.

Considerable logging has been done this winter on the Salmon river in British Columbia, and some 3,000,000 feet of logs are now awaiting high water for transportation to the Columbia River Lumber Company's mill at Kwall.

Reports from the lumber camps in the Riding and Duck Mountains of Manitoba are to the effect that the past winter was

the most favorable for years for getting out logs. The number of men engaged in the camps was double that of other years, and the output of logs will be the largest in the history of the district.

O. E. Elsmore, of Bay City, Mich., has recently been in the Sudbury district and reports that the following quantities of logs have been banked on the north shore in Spanish River waters: Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company, 28,000,000 feet; N. N. Wright & Co., 30,000,000 ft.; Victoria Harbor Lumber Co., 10,000,000 ft.; Turner Lumber Co., 8,000,000 ft.; Spanish River Lumber Co., 12,000,000 ft.; Edmund Hall, 15,000,000 ft.; Holland & Graves, 25,000,000 ft.; Cleveland & Sarnia Saw Mills Co., 20,000,000 ft.; Moulthrop Lumber Company, 8,000,000 ft.

The Edward Hines Lumber Company, of Chicago, last week closed negotiations at Marinette, Wis., for the purchase of 80,000,000 feet of lumber, represented by two transactions. The first purchase consisted of the cut of the two mills of the N. Ludington Company, aggregating 50,000,000 feet of white pine lumber, 15,000,000 shingles, and 20,000,000 laths, the purchase price being approximately \$1,000,000. The second purchase was the cut of the Marinette mill of the H. Wilbeck Company comprising 30,000,000 feet of white pine lumber. These purchases comprise practically two-thirds of the combined output of the Marinette and Menominee mills.

Under date of February 28th Messrs. Clairmonte, Man & Company say of the Barbadoes market: We note two arrivals with lumber during the fortnight, a schooner from Annapolis, N.S., with 173,000 feet white pine, spruce and hemlock, and a schooner from Bellevue Cove, N.S., with 160,000 feet spruce. The cargo of the former was sold to arrive at \$26 for first and \$21 for second quality white pine, and \$23 and \$20 for spruce. The cargo of the latter brought \$22.50 for first and \$19.50 for second quality spruce, and 28,000 long hemlock shingles brought \$2.40. Our yards are still barely supplied, as during our crop season, just commenced, there is always a good demand. There has been no arrival of shingles since October. Last sales were made at \$4.89 to \$5.04 for Gaspé Long Cedar and are now worth more. Cedar Laying are selling at \$1.82 and Spruce Laying at \$1.65 to \$1.70.

#### LUMBERING OPERATIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

R. A. Estey, of Fredericton, has completed his season's operations on the Tobique river, also a successful season's work on the Rockaway, Madawaska county. Mr. Estey's season's cut will be about 7,000,000 feet.

Herbert Hay, of the firm of W. A. & J. H. Hay, of Millville, has just completed operations on the Baccaguimac river, where he cut 1,500,000 for A. H. Sawyer, of Hartland.

Josiah Hallett, of Millville, has finished his season's operations on the Nashwaak, where he cut 2,000,000 for the Alexander Gibson Company.

Hilyard Bros., of St. John, have taken out about 6,000,000 feet.

J. J. Hale, Donald F. Auer & Sons, and other large lumber operators on the Tobique are already hauling supplies into their camps for next season and are experiencing considerable difficulty on account of the heavy condition of the roads. The Burns Company, of Bathurst, are hauling supplies through from the Tobique to the Bathurst river.

H. M. Craig, of Perth Centre, who has been operating for the Tobique Manufacturing Company, on Sisson Brook, cut 2,000,000 feet this winter.

#### TRADE OPENINGS.

The following where among the enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Office in London during the week ending 14th February, 1903. The names of the parties may be obtained from the publishers of this journal.

A London importer wishes to get into touch with a Canadian shipper of wood chimney pieces, etc.

#### BIRCH SQUARES AND SEATS.

A large buyer of Birch chair seats and of Birch squares is open to contract with a mill for their output. Also open for Broom Handles and Dowels in large quantities. Write in first instance to "Finance," care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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