

Manufacturers will hold their logs and lumber rather than sell at the prevailing low prices, and it is probable that the market will recover later in the season. New Brunswick cedar shingles have not strengthened, but on the other hand larger quantities of Extras have been sold on the basis of \$3.20 for Boston delivery. As with lumber, the larger manufacturers are holding their stocks.

## UNITED STATES.

The good prospect of having a large yield of wheat and corn to sell at high prices has established a strong feeling of confidence in the business community and has perceptibly influenced the lumber market. Retail dealers are anticipating their demands and are laying in a stock for the fall trade. These remarks apply particularly to the agricultural districts, but a better feeling prevails in the Eastern States also on account of an improved outlook for the iron and steel trade. The Buffalo White Pine Association met last week and reaffirmed the price list. Common lumber still shows an advancing tendency and no sales are being made at cut prices. Eastern dealers have picked up several blocks of lumber in the Lake Superior district, which would seem to indicate that the idea of a further decline in prices has been abandoned. Spruce lumber is not being manufactured in large quantities, the supply being no more than equal to the demand. The random cargo market is quiet, but ordered cargoes are active and firm. Quotations at Boston are: 2 x 3-4, 10 feet and up, and 2 x 5-6-7, \$16.50; 2 x 8-9, 10 feet and up, and 4 x 4 and up, \$17.50; 2 x 10 x 12, \$20.

After weeks of inactivity the hardwood market is now showing more life. Soft elm in all grades and thicknesses is one of the best sellers. Plain sawed oak is also in good demand. Furniture manufacturing has not revived in full measure and consequently birch continues dull, but as the supply is not heavy, there is no pressure to sell.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Lumber conditions in Great Britain have improved only in respect to consumption, which is a little more active. While prices are firm, there has been no material

advance, although it may be said that there is less pressure to sell. Buyers who deferred making contracts have been rewarded for their procrastination, but considering the present low basis of prices, it would seem unwise to further delay the making of contracts for requirements, and even buying for speculative account would seem to offer a good opportunity for profit. We are told that during the past fortnight prices of spruce cargoes have still further sagged, but that several cargoes have lately been sold to the Bristol Channel ports at the lower figures. It is stated that shippers regard the decline as temporary in character and look for a recovery of some proportions in the early fall. Spruce lumber is now lower than it has been for some years. A quantity of 3 x 9 inch second quality, of Breakey's manufacture, sold recently at public sale at £9 10s. per standard, which is practically c.i.f. prices.

## STOCKS AND PRICES.

Montgomery Bros., of Buffalo, have received 10,000,000 feet of lumber by lake this season.

Merabou, Schuette, Parker & Company have just purchased the unsold stock to be cut this season by Eddy Bros. & Company at Blind River, Ont., estimated at 20,000,000 feet. The lumber will likely be shipped to Saginaw.

At an auction sale held by Churchill & Sims, London, England, on July 13th, a small quantity of Canadian lumber sold as follows: 12-14 feet, 3 x 11 inch unassorted pine, £5 per standard; 12 feet, 3 x 9 inch second quality spruce, £9 10s; 13 feet, 3 x 11 inch third quality spruce, £7 5s.

The American Lumberman says: "Importations of lumber into Canada for April, 1904, were valued at \$588,087, as against \$436,128 in the like month of 1903. For the period of ten months ended April 30 of the present year, lumber was imported into Canada, largely from the United States, to the value of \$4,679,556, as against \$2,920,875 in the corresponding period in the year previous. Thus American lumber sent over the line into Western Canada almost doubled in value in the last ten months, as stated. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the British Columbians are anxious to dam back this inflow of American lumber by some sort of fiscal legislation."

Messrs. Denny, Mott & Dickson, London, Eng., say of the lumber market:

"There has been some demand for waney pine of good dimension but little enquiry for oak and elm. The latter, however, continues to harden in price—owing to the difficulty of shippers finding even the limited quantity to which they have committed themselves for the new season. Quebec oak continues to be difficult to sell, owing to the cheaper, if inferior, American oak being taken for many purposes where the dearer article used to be specified. The spruce market has shown an easier tendency for ordinary specifications but good prices have been realized by shippers for special requirements."

Messrs. S. P. Mussen, Son & Company, of Barbadoes, say: "The only arrivals during the fortnight ending July 16th were the schooner 'F. B. Wade' with 62,000 feet of white pine and 2,000 feet of spruce, and the schooner 'Nellie' with 15,000 feet of white pine and 32,000 feet of spruce, which were placed in Trinidad. The market is well supplied, and the demand, as usual after the crop, is very light. The lot of 820,000 of Cedar Laying shingles to which we alluded in our last, arrived on the 5th, and while \$2.09 was obtained for the bulk of the cargo, \$1.86 had to be accepted for the balance, which were not up to quality. The market for these is now well stocked, and although Long Cedar are not held in any quantity, we look to see lower prices in both these grades for next arrivals. Dimensions are in very light supply and a small lot would bring fair prices."

## BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

VANCOUVER, B.C., July 22, 1904.—Conditions in British Columbia, while not improving to any degree worthy of mention, are not getting any worse. Some lumbermen might say that the latter was impossible, still the mills are running, and though prices are not maintained in their integrity, yet they are sufficiently good that the sawing of the stock of logs on hand is continued. The 40-cent rate on spruce and hemlock to points east of the western boundary of Manitoba will be more of a benefit to the millmen of the interior, where these timbers are mainly sawn. Heretofore, the territory for the 40-cent rate extended only to the Manitoba line, but since American roads decided to extend the territory to all points west of the Missouri river, the C. P. R. was permitted to include Manitoba, which would under those circumstances be non-competitive territory. An extension of the 40-cent rate has been agitated for by the lumbermen, and now their hope is to have it apply to cedar. This the railway company will, however, not do, until the American roads take similar action. Coast lumbermen deal principally in fir and cedar, while spruce is one of the staples of those manu-

facturers who have their mills in the Kootenay. It is one step, though, to a betterment of rates, and in the present depression is of assistance.

The announcement of Hon. Mr. Fielding that next year something may be done for the protection of the lumber industry is not regarded so much as encouragement as a promise in view of the elections which may come off shortly. The necessity of preserving Canadian markets for the Canadian people, as is done in every industry except that of lumber, has been brought to the attention of the Liberal Government since 1896, and particularly within the last couple of years. The Government cannot plead ignorance of conditions, and in the late speech of Mr. Fielding, when he announced the dumping clause, he carefully excluded the west from any benefits, although providing that the people out this way should pay whatever extra could be charged on goods, and they are many, imported from the east. Hence, the statement that something may be done next year is not taken with all sincerity, and lumbermen here will believe nothing until they either see the duty imposed or have very definite assurance that it will be done.

A story was circulating in the up-country papers to the effect that the Kamloops Lumber Company had sold out their interests in the mills at Kamloops, Enderby and Annis, and had profited considerably by the transaction. Mr. George McCormick is head of this concern, and Mr. Wm. Irwin, of Peterboro, Lieut.-Col. M. Davidson and Lieut.-Col. John McGillivray,

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