

losses in the last few years and their present preparations only contemplates a cut about equal to that of last year which was short. In the district about Lake Winnipeg, Brown & Rutherford will take out about 2,000,000 feet; Mather & Co., have a large number of logs which were cut last year and which will now be taken out; Captain Robinson will take out 2,000,000 feet; Jonasson, Frederickson & Walkley, 2,000,000 feet; H. Crowe & Co., and the Selkirk Lumber Co. together 3,000,000 feet; Mr. Meegan has bought about 3,000,000 feet of old logs belonging to the defunct Northwestern Timber Company, which he will get out and saw; Woods & Co. have about 500,000 feet of logs at their mill on the Winnipeg river which they will saw but they have not yet decided whether they will take out any more logs or not this year; D. E. Sprague & Co. have men out prospecting and will not decide upon their operation till these return which will be in about a week's time. In the Lake of the Woods district the cut of logs will be about as follows: Rainy Lake Co., Rat Portage, 10,000,000 feet; Ontario Lumber Co., Norman, 8,000,000; Cameron & Kennedy, Norman, 8,000,000; Dick Banning & Co., Keewatin, 8,000,000; Keewatin Lumber Co., Keewatin 10,000,000; total 44,000,000 feet. The Ontario & Minnesota Co., get their entire cut from Minnesota; the Keewatin Lumber Co., get 8,000,000 feet in Minnesota and the balance on their own lands on the Lake of the Woods; the other mills are supplied entirely in Canada.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

—The saw mill at Griffin Lake, Kamloops district, B. C., was sold by the sheriff recently, and purchased by James McIntosh.

—A large quantity of lumber is being shipped by the Moodyville Saw Mill Co., Burrard Inlet, to China, South America and Australia.

—Mr. Chase, of Chicago, has lately been through the mountain district of British Columbia. He owns timber limits east of the Selkirk range of mountains, and contemplates erecting a mill in that region.

—Ottawa valley lumbermen are commencing to look to British Columbia as a field of operations. It has just been announced that Jas. G. Ross and Jas. McLaren, two well known Ottawa lumbermen, are about securing a very extensive timber limit in the Pacific Province. The lands are situated west of Duncan Bay, Sayward district, and comprise over 25,000 acres. This is said to be the largest limit in the province, and would indicate that another large mill will shortly be established on the Pacific coast, thus increasing the already thriving industry in that district. A survey of the property has been made, and that country is described as level and heavily timbered with the famous Douglas fir, or Oregon pine as it is often called. There is also a sprinkling of white pine and cedar, the former a somewhat harder wood than the pine of the east.

QUEBEC.

—Quebec timber merchants are commencing to leave for Europe to push sales in the European markets.

—Mr. T. Selby, East Dunham, is putting machinery into his steam saw mill to make cheese boxes.

—Messrs. Chapman & Drysdale, Lachute, manufacturers of sashes, doors, etc., who recently increased the capacity of their factory, report that they have all the business they can handle.

AMERICAN NOTES.

—Reports by the local papers in the Saginaw valley district announce the erection of a vast number of shingle mills and the prospects are good for the largest cut which has been made for years.

—Shingles are so scarce that the prices have stiffened considerably on the Saginaw river. Sales are reported within a short time at \$3.65 and \$3.75 for XXX, and \$2.65 and \$2.75 for clear butts.

A telegram from Washington announces that Representative Nelson is to introduce a short tariff bill proposing to put lumber on the free list. Coal, salt and other staples are also included in the list. The same telegram announces that Mr. Nelson will introduce a bill authorizing the Duluth, Rainy Lake & Southwestern railway to build a bridge across the Red river of the North on the boundary line between Marshall and Kittson counties and Dakota. This is the road to be built from Rainy Lake river on the boundary line southwest, and it is not at all improbable that the two propositions are more or less connected. With lumber admitted free and the railroad built, the mill men at Rat Portage would have a satisfactory outlet. Mr. Nelson has been the champion of the proposition to throw open the Red Lake reservation, so that the pine on that extensive tract would be brought into competition with Mr. Walker's holdings outside, but thus far this plan has failed. The fate of the bill will be watched by Minnesota lumbermen with interest.

Bring Out Your Money Bags.

Northwestern Lumbermen.

If, at the present session of congress, there is to be any lobbying in favor of free lumber, Canadian timber owners are the men who should be on hand at the capital with their money bags. These timber owners could afford to pay millions of dollars to have our import duty on lumber removed. Canada will be the gainer. Nothing is plainer than that lumber will not go on the free list if the will of the lumber manufacturers be respected. It will be argued that the lumbermen is selfish in this respect; not more selfish, however, than the politician whose vote will help to decide whether lumber shall, or shall not, be admitted into the states from Canada, free. This week our Puget sound correspondent describes the feeling that exists in Washington territory on the subject. The verdict is against free lumber. The same verdict will be rendered in the south. Not one saw mill man in fifty in the southern states wants free lumber. It is not a party issue—republicans and democrats are of the one opinion. They have in view the protection of an industry that is just getting out of its swaddling clothes. Throughout the northwest and in the east there are a few lumbermen who are in favor of removing the duty, for the simple reason that it will be money in their pockets to have it removed. There are others, and in large number, who insist that free lumber would be of no benefit to the United States, but beyond this they take no stand. Our law makers should understand, before they decide the question, that to remove the duty on lumber would not be helping the "dear people" of their own country one cent's worth, but that it would be a direct contribution, and a heavy one, too, to the Canadian government principally.

QUEBEC TIMBER TRADE.

J. Bell Forsyth & Co.'s Annual Trade Circular.

We have again the pleasure of publishing our annual statements of supply, exports, and stocks wintering, together with prices current, etc., etc.

The increase in arrivals of Ocean Steamships referred to in previous circulars still continues, also the tonnage from the Lower Ports, while in the number of sailing vessels from sea there is a marked falling, off and each year the business of the Port from one cause or another seems to be steadily on the decline. Owing to the very limited production last winter the supply has been unusually small especially of White Pine, and the Cove returns now laid before you show greatly diminished stocks wintering, notwithstanding that the export has fallen far below the average of past years. The accounts from Great Britain are on the whole more encouraging than they have been for a long period, still it must be borne in mind that the consumption of Canadian Woods has been greatly curtailed of late years, owing to the rates at which Pitch Pine and other cheap woods are imported and sold at there.

WHITE PINE.—The supply of both Square and Waney has been exceptionally short, the shipment slightly over that of last year and the quantity wintering exceedingly light. The market opened weak and without buyers last spring, and continued in a very unsatisfactory state during the summer months, the few sales then effected being at low and unremunerative rates. Towards the middle of September an increased demand set in, and from that time to the present higher prices have been obtained. The greater portion of the stock wintering is in the hands of shippers, a few lots only remaining on manufacturers account. The greatest difficulty is now experienced in obtaining first class wood which is becoming more scarce every year, and the very high prices paid at the Government sale in Ontario last week for Timber Limits must enhance the value of White Pine, especially of choice quality.

WANNEY.—Has been in better request than square all season, and with a light supply and a shipment below the average the quantity wintering is less by \$17,691 feet than it was twelve months ago. The present stock contains a portion of old wood which has been some years in the Coves, a good deal of this quality remaining unsold. Owing to a decidedly better feeling in the market as well as to the certainty of a small production this winter, large sales have recently taken place at our quotations; no fresh timber wintering now remains in first hands.

SQUARE.—The supply this year is perhaps the lowest on record and the stock in the Coves very light. The demand in the United Kingdom is not by any means as great as formerly and with the exception of choice grades for deck-plank and other purposes the consumption of Square Pine has considerably fallen off. The stock on hand is less by 2,277,813 feet than last year and continues about the usual proportion of old and inferior wood quite unsuitable for export. From latest accounts the production this winter will be confined to a few operators only,

and a very limited manufacture is looked for. There has been a fair local demand all season, the consumption being equal to former years.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|---|-----------|---|
| 1887 | { Square .1,168,547 Waney .2,060,083 | 5,127,080 | { 4,294,851 Square. 2,449,403 Waney. |
| 1886 | { Square .3,032,738 Waney .3,077,331 | 4,524,760 | { 6,572,664 Square. 3,267,094 Waney. |

RED PINE.—There has been rather a better demand for this wood than during the past few years. The supply has been ample, the shipment under the average, and the quantity now on hand very light, though slightly in excess of last season. With the recovery of trade in Ireland we may look for a better demand and heavier export.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1887 | 591,646 | 405,720 | 404,124 |
| 1886 | 273,767 | 405,520 | 256,904 |

OSAK.—Has also been in much better request during the past three months and commanded higher rates in the early part of the season, when it was very dull of sale. The supply has been a very moderate one, the export close on that of 1886, while the Cove returns show 248,040 feet less than when we last issued our Circular. The quantity at Garden Island and Collins' Bay is unusually small. This winter's production promises to be light, and our highest quotations are now asked.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 1887 | 746,243 | 1,012,160 | 748,637 |
| 1886 | 1,039,632 | 1,051,360 | 996,713 |

ELM.—The receipts have been trifling, most of this timber in the Supervisor of Cullers' returns having wintered in drams, was estimated in last year's stock. The shipment though light is equal to the previous year, and the wintering stock 404,028 feet less. The enhanced cost of standing timber and the difficulty in procuring it militates against its manufacture, and the production this winter will be on a very limited basis.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1887 | 221,358 | 405,040 | 502,773 |
| 1886 | 399,698 | 407,120 | 906,791 |

ASH.—This wood in supply and export is under the average, but does not receive as much attention as formerly. The stock wintering comprises some old timber, and is slightly under that of last season. The production will be light.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1887 | 114,282 | 191,840 | 287,174 |
| 1886 | 128,485 | 174,360 | 321,211 |

BIRCH.—The quantity wintering is almost nil, but if prices advance and with a favorable winter, no doubt ample for all requirements will be made.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1887 | 112,990 | 192,680 | 12,935 |
| 1886 | 221,291 | 236,680 | 67,336 |

STAVES.—This branch of our trade, at one time so important, has dwindled down to the shipment of a few thousands—exceedingly low rates of freight from the States having been the chief cause in bringing this about. The stock is a diminutive one.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 1887 | { Pipe 44 Punchon 156 | { 220 306 | { 41 33 |
| 1886 | { Pipe 65 Punchon 129 | { 151 308 | { 254 159 |

DEALS—PINE.—Our comparative statement shows a considerable decline in the supply and export. We fear this branch of our lumber trade is finding its way through other channels where greater facilities of shipment and cheaper rates of stowage prevail than in our port. The demand during the early months was rather slow, but with the autumn prices stiffened and large transactions have taken place at about our quotations. Most of the "large cuts" have already been disposed of for next season's delivery. The Supply from Michigan will be trifling owing to the improved rates current there for sawn lumber.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 1887 | 1,487,138 | 1,365,510 | 670,341 |
| 1886 | 2,578,004 | 2,271,069 | 798,713 |

Do —SPRUCE.—The business done in this article has been considerable, the demand though very slack during the spring and summer months improved towards the autumn, prices have advanced and some large sales are reported at our quotations. At the same time Mill-Owners will do well not to increase on last year's production.

| | Supply. | Export. | Stock. |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1887 | 2,301,996 | 2,399,489 | 990,591 |
| 1886 | 2,102,883 | 2,318,335 | 1,288,084 |

SAWN LUMBER.—Has been in good request, more especially for the higher grades. We quote Pine at \$10 to \$15 per 1,000 feet b. m. and Spruce at \$5.50 to \$10.50, according to quality and specification.

Freights have ruled low all season,—Opening at 16s. to 20s. for Timber, and 45s. to 47s. 6d. Deals, closing at 19s. to 20s. Timber, and 40s. Deals.