

**CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS****ONTARIO.**

The advent of the new year brought no increased activity to the lumber trade. The movement of stock during the past week has been very light and confined to urgent orders. Buyers are making inquiries concerning the prices asked by manufacturers for next season's cut, and some contracts are likely to be closed very shortly. The more conservative persons are disposed to wait until they are better able to judge of the prospects for spring business, but others seem to be of the opinion that a fair season will be experienced and that lumber bought at present prices is good value. The universal report from manufacturers is that lumber stocks are not heavy. The logging season opened favorably, but the deep snow which now prevails in the northern woods is interfering with operations and is likely to result in curtailing the output. It is probable that the cut of hemlock in particular will be short this winter owing to the great depth of snow and the difficulty that was experienced in the early fall in getting men at a reasonable wage.

**QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.**

The statement of wintering stocks at Quebec shows the strong position of spruce deals. The total quantity carried over this winter is approximately 4,300,000 feet, as compared with 8,000,000 feet one year ago. The export from the St. Lawrence slightly exceeded last year's shipments. The stock of pine deals is practically nil, but this is due in part to the fact that Quebec is now an unimportant shipping point for pine lumber. The wintering stock of square pine is 413,469 cubic feet, as compared with 395,952 cubic feet one year ago. The corresponding figures for waney are 406,038 and 261,393 cubic feet. The explanation of this increase is that the stocks carried over one year ago were exceptionally light. With the exception of last season, the stock wintering this year is under that of any previous year. Prices asked for rafts now making show a considerable advance over earlier figures. Red pine, elm, ash and birch are in lighter stock than one year ago, while the wintering stock of oak shows a decided increase, the figures being 491,851 and 192,161 cubic feet. It is evident, therefore, that the advanced prices have stimulated production. A reduction in the quantity manufactured this winter seems probable. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia prices of spruce lumber are reported to be a little easier. There has been a drop in the price of spruce logs from \$13, the high point reached a few months ago, to \$11, the current quotation. It is believed, however, that values will gradually increase, which is much to be desired, as about 30,000,000 feet of last season's cut of logs, which were bought at high prices, are being up above Grand Falls, on the St. John river.

**UNITED STATES.**

The close of the year finds the lumber trade of the United States in a satisfactory condition. Lumbermen are much encouraged by the fact that although towards the end of the year the demand fell off considerably, the stock of unsold lumber is light, perhaps below the average. In the Saginaw valley stocks of white pine are about 15 per cent. less than one year ago. A few contracts have been made with manufacturers for stock for next

season's delivery and some large transactions are said to be pending. The price list committee of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association will meet this week, when it is probable that an advance will be made in the price of dimension.

The lists of the new white pine association formed at Buffalo show only 13 per cent. of box lumber. This is a very low stock and before the new cut is ready it will be necessary to substitute other kinds of lumber for boxes to a very large extent. This will have a strengthening effect upon the general market. Mill culls and scoots are also in very light supply in Buffalo. A dealer recently sold a quantity of scoots at \$12.00. The most liberal supply is of No. 2 and No. 3 barn. There is a better demand for No. 3 cuts, and Norway is moving with some freedom. The consumption of hardwood lumber has been checked by the holiday period and less complaint is made of the scarcity than was the case one month ago. There is more birch in sight than there was a year ago, notwithstanding that the demand has been quite strong. Hemlock is quiet, but there is no disposition to cut prices. The trade is of the opinion that the production this winter will be light. In Pennsylvania, for instance, the production this year is estimated at 500,000,000 feet, as compared with 800,000,000 feet in 1903.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

Advices from Great Britain reflect the uncertainty which prevails in business circles. The different views expressed regarding a fiscal policy are not conducive to confidence, and the best that is hoped for is that trade conditions may become no worse. Agents of lumber exporters are making their usual rounds and are succeeding in placing some stock, but it is small in quantity as compared with one year ago. There is some satisfaction in knowing that pine and spruce deals are looked upon as likely to continue firm in price on account of the prospective light export from this country. A moderate quantity of waney pine timber is going into consumption, but the demand for square pine is light. Dealers anticipate a fair demand for ash, birch and elm, as the quantity carried by dealers is not large.

**STOCKS AND PRICES.**

Charles O. Black, of Oxford, N. S., will take out 4,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

During the past year Buffalo shipped 178,000,000 feet of lumber by lake, or 30,000,000 feet less than 1903.

Mason & Gordon, of Montreal, have 50 men at work taking out square timber on their limits near North Bay, Ont.

The ship *Wilhelmine* has just loaded 1,400,000 feet of lumber at Chemainus, B. C., for Cape Town, South Africa.

It is estimated that a little over 300,000,000 feet of lumber has been shipped from Saginaw Valley points by rail during the past year.

E. I. White & Son, of Sand River, N.S., expect to cut during the coming season 3,000,000 feet of lumber, 3,000,000 lath, and 10,000 pcs. spruce piles.

The Turner Lumber Company, of Midland, Ont., have fourteen camps in operation this season. Their log input will probably be as great as last year.

In the North Tonawanda market pine uppers are selling at from \$84 to \$95, ac-

ording to width and quality, while 4-inch selects are quoted at \$92 by some dealers.

The Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, London, England, has received an inquiry from a manufacturing company of Cardiff, who wish to be placed in communication with Canadian manufacturers of box shooks.

A lumberman who recently visited the Georgian Bay district states that there is no lumber for sale in that district, the cut of the year having been sold out. He says that he never knew lumber to be sold up so closely.

It is reported that a steamer has been chartered to load part cargo of lumber at Chemainus, B. C., for Calcutta, during February. The steamer *Khyder* is loading at same port for Australia and the steamer *Hydra* will load for Chili.

The Hanbury Manufacturing Company, of Brandon, Man., expect to cut 7,000,000 feet of lumber during the coming season. They have a mill at Cranbrook, B. C., operated under the name of the North Star Lumber Company, where they will cut 8,000,000 feet the coming year.

Messrs. J. H. Moore and C. P. Roe, who were in Toronto recently on their return from the lumber camps of the Georgian Bay district and Algoma, say that the shortage in the output is very marked in some instances. The cut of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company alone will be reduced from 80,000,000 feet, the output of last season, to 60,000,000 feet.

Notice is given in the British Columbia Gazette that tenders will be received by the Lands and Works Department, Victoria, up to noon, Wednesday, January 20th, from any person desirous of obtaining a lease under section 42 of the Land Act of a timber limit situated on Vancouver Island, known as lots 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124 and 125, Rupert district, containing in the aggregate 21,956 acres.

Messrs. Claremonte, Man & Company in their last report say regarding the Barbados market: "There have been four arrivals of white pine and spruce during the fortnight. The last sale of white pine for a cargo on the spot was at \$25.75 per thousand for merchantable and \$20.75 for second quality; spruce, \$22 for merchantable and \$18 for second quality. Last sales of Gaspe long cedar shingles were at \$5.57; Cedar Laying, \$2.05 to \$2.07 1/2."

E. T. Carrington, of Bay City, and Mr. Arnold, of Albany, have purchased the interest of their partners in the Spanish River Lumber Company, comprising some stock in the Spanish River Boom Company, some 50,000,000 feet of pine, and a large quantity of hardwood and cedar in the Spanish River country. The firm stocks a saw mill formerly owned by the company, but which was sold to Bay City parties two years ago.

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AGENTS

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER**

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 24—This is a very dull time of the year in the lumber trade. The British Columbia Gazette shows but a half dozen applications for licenses to cut timber, and the loggers who have returned from the coast are spending their Christmas holidays in town.

Now that the full text of the new timber regulations have been thoroughly understood, there is a general dissatisfaction on both sides. Those who expressed satisfaction a week ago have been entirely converted, and nine out of every ten lumbermen believe that the government has made a mistake in trying to please the few rather than the many. They have increased the revenue of small holders who could not afford it, and allowed the monied men who hold timber under no restrictions, having acquired it in the early days, to come into unfair competition with those who have to finance their deal from first to last with the banks.

The news from up country is to the effect that there is great activity in the lumber business. These sections are near the ever-growing Northwest Canada.

Theodore Ludgate, a well known mill man, has completed a magnificent mill, as large as any mill on the coast, near Chemainus on Vancouver Island. In that vicinity alone there is an army of 1,000 men at work logging. This applies to different sections in the Kootenay, so that in spite of the statement that there is no money in the logging business, there seems to be no let up to the establishment of new mills throughout the province.

**SAVANNE MILLS SOLD.**

The entire holdings of the Savanne Lumber Company at Savanne, Northwestern Ontario, including mills, bush outfit and limits, were sold by public auction at Savanne a few days ago, and the property knocked down to Patrick Hogan, the sum paid being \$14,000. The mills are situated on the C.P.R., about two miles west of Savanne station, where they have been operated for seven or eight years. This site is to be abandoned and the mill removed to a point near Kashebowie, on the Canadian Northern Railway, in which neighborhood the company's limits are located. Mr. Hogan was resident manager for the company.

**TO HOLDERS OF BIRCH LIMITS**

Can you cut birch into Squares, &c. We can also take birch cut on the sweep with a jigger or small band saw. Large quantities required. Write in first instance to "Finance," c/o CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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