

STOCKS AND PRICES.

C. P. Easton & Company are about to commence sawing operations at their new mill near Quebec. They expect to cut about 12,000,000 feet this season.

A statement of the winter port business or the past season shows that the various steamers sailing from St. John, N. B., to the British ports, carried 48,000,000 feet of deals and other long lumber.

John E. Moore, of St. John, N. B., is reported to have sold his winter cut of logs to the St. George Pulp & Paper Company, of St. George. This would indicate that he will not do any sawing at Bonny River this season. Mr. Moore expects that his 3,000,000 feet of logs hung up on the Oromocto river will come out safely.

There has been a slight decline in the price of slack staves and heading, but there is no surplus stock. Jobbers at Buffalo quote dry elm flour barrel staves at \$11.50 to \$12 for first class; basswood heading, 8 to 8½ cents for first class, 6 cents for second class; coiled hoops, \$8.50 to \$9 for 5½-foot; \$9 to \$9.50 for 6-foot.

Large quantities of ties are being taken out in the vicinity of Cranbrook, B. C. Last year the East Kootenay Lumber Company furnished 750,000 ties and this year will repeat the order. In addition 500,000 will be furnished by other companies in the vicinity of Cranbrook, making a total of 1,250,000 ties. Estimated at 20 cents per tie, their total value would be \$250,000.

The first vessel to come down the lakes with lumber this year was the steamer James Fisk, loaded with 750,000 feet of white pine at Cutler, Ont., for the Imperial Lumber Company's yards at North Tonawanda. The Imperial Lumber Company have purchased about 10,000,000 feet of white pine in the Georgian Bay district for shipment to Tonawanda by vessel this season.

CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

From Parrsboro, N.S.: Steamer Pandora, for Manchester, cargo deals, value \$57,000.

From West Dublin, N.S.: Schooner F. B. Wade, for Porto Rico, 52,000 ft. spruce lumber, 26,000 shingles.

From St. John, N.B.: Schooner Bessie Parker, for City Island, 201,609 ft. deals. Schooner G. H. Perry, for Boston, 120,345 ft. planks, 27,579 ft. scantling. Schooner Effie, for Scituate, 703,000 shingles.

From Halifax, N.S.: Steamer Tunisian, for Liverpool, 26,000 ft. birch deals, value \$266; 274,521 ft. spruce deals, value \$3,228. Steamer Ulunda, for Liverpool, 121,706 ft. birch deals, value \$1,271; 7,877 cubic feet birch timber, value \$2,000; 10,172 ft. birch squares, value \$160; 53,586 ft. spruce deals, value \$694; 56,526 ft. hemlock deals, value \$500.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET.

The lumber trade with South Africa which a few years ago was expected to have played no small part in Canadian business, especially in the line of red and white pine, appears to have fallen exceedingly flat, and there is little, if anything, in prospect for the coming season. This in a large measure is attributed to the conditions prevailing in the United States, the trade there throwing themselves upon to supply that market with ready dressed stuff of all descriptions (including doors, sashes and tongued and grooved boards) at prices at which dealers here found it difficult to compete. The American enterprise was particularly marked immediately following the close of the South African war, when cargoes were quickly rushed in, and so complete has been the success that not only has it made itself felt in checking Canadian export, but also in menacing the European markets too.

It might be interesting here to note that within comparatively recent date seven cargoes of lumber consigned to South Africa from the Baltic were re-consigned to the London market, after reaching the South African port, it having been impossible to place it on that market on a paying basis. A condition such as

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this is the "proverbial straw" which shows the way of the commercial wind and which accounts in a measure for the increased endeavour of the Continental merchants to hold the British trade even at the expense of price.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK DRIVES.

The New Brunswick log drives are making satisfactory progress. The St. John river was falling steadily on May 8 and 9, but a heavy rain the following day caused a perceptible rise.

R. A. Estey's drive on the Tobique river came out on the 6th inst. Driving operations lasted exactly twelve days, which is considered a record breaker. A large lot of bank logs were received at Springbank last week and purchased by Dunn Bros.

Reports from Fredericton May 10 stated that the Gibson Company's drives on the Nashwaal river and tributaries were moving rapidly. The Arnold Brook and Cross Creek drives were in safe waters and it is believed that the whole drive will be out in the course of a few days.

Very encouraging reports were received on May 12, the water having risen over four feet at Andover and two feet at Edmundston in one day. About 55,000,000 feet of logs were then in the booms of the Fredericton Boom Company, 20,000,000 feet being in the Mitchell boom, and 35,000,000 feet in the booms at Sugar Island and Douglas. A great many new logs were caught at the booms during the past few days, quite a number bearing the

private mark of Cunliffe, who has a drive of 17,000,000 feet on the Allegash river for W. H. Murray.

The drives for John A. Marchie on the Big Black river and the Scott Lumber Company on the Wyld Cat river, will probably be out this week. Gilman Bros. & Burden's drive of 4,000,000 feet on the Pokiok stream has reached the mill.

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