

States, but British trade is exceptionally quiet and sales made for that market usually represent a loss to the shippers, as the manufacturer's profit has been entirely wiped out by the decline. It is not expected that much improvement will take place this year, although with a reduced log production better things may be expected next spring. Cedar shingles are still weak, there being a tendency to shade prices below \$3.20 for the best brands for Boston delivery.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The wheat crop of the North-West is now estimated at 44,000,000 bushels, a shrinkage of 30 per cent. from the first estimate, and somewhat smaller than last year's production. The buying power of the farmer, however, will be almost as great, for the price of wheat is considerably higher than one year ago. The demand for lumber is a little quiet and prices still irregular. The Victoria branch of the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association have given notice of a reduction of 10 per cent. in the price of all rough lumber, lath and shingles for delivery in Victoria and district. The general tendency of prices, however, is not downward, for it is learned that some of the largest manufacturers refuse to give concessions to buyers and are looking for an advance in prices at an early date. No improvement in the shingle situation can be reported. One or two small manufacturers are said to be finding difficulty in meeting their obligations.

UNITED STATES.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association held at Minneapolis, Minn., on August 30th, it was decided to make no change in the official price list adopted on June 15th. The secretary reported that there is a decrease in the percentage of dimension being sawed this season as compared with last year; that production at the head of the lakes will be 30 per cent. less than a year ago; that wholesale stocks in the hands of eastern lake jobbers are about half what they were last year; and that retail stocks everywhere are lighter than they have been for several seasons. These conditions are peculiar to white

pine, but reflect in a measure the general lumber market. Yellow pine and Pacific Coast lumber have strengthened and have recovered part of the decline which took place earlier in the year. The demand from yard dealers is expanding and orders are usually accompanied by a request for immediate shipment. Manufacturers are holding prices firmly, but some wholesalers are making concessions in order to encourage the demand. Hardwoods are showing more activity and it is believed that the volume of business for August compared favorably with the corresponding month for last year. The demand for birch, elm and maple continues good.

GREAT BRITAIN.

After weighing the different reports that come to hand from Great Britain, the conclusion is reached that there has been some improvement in market conditions during the past week. Business is still far from satisfactory, but more orders are being placed at sellers' figures than previously. Many importers, having bought but a small proportion of their requirements and having relied upon large consignments to be secured almost at their own figures, are discovering that less lumber is offering than they anticipated, and they are therefore showing more disposition to buy than for some time past. First and second quality white pine is almost certain to remain firm, and there is not likely to be such heavy shipments of thirds and fourths as to affect the market perceptibly. The most substantial improvement, however, has been in spruce. Prices are said to have advanced fully five shillings per standard as compared with two weeks ago. The wise policy of the Canadian shippers in refraining from sending goods forward at an unfavorable time is no doubt largely responsible for the improvement. Two cargoes of St. John deals are reported to have been sold recently at £6 2s 6d per standard c. i. f. Liverpool.

TO HOLDERS OF BIRCH LIMITS.

Can you cut birch into Squares, etc. 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," care CANADA LUMBERMAN.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The city of Winnipeg will award a contract this week for the supply of from 400,000 to 1,000,000 feet of lumber.

Curry & Thrasher, of Ferguson Falls, Ont., are preparing to commence operations on their timber limit near Deux Rivieres, Ont.

Vigars & Company, of Port Arthur, Ont., have just finished cutting 1,000,000 feet of cedar, which will be shipped to the Peterboro Canoe Company, Peterboro, Ont.

E. H. Heaps & Company, of Cedar Cove, B. C., recently purchased 500,000 feet of spruce logs from the Port Renfrew Lumber Company. The logs were towed from Renfrew to Vancouver, a distance of 140 miles.

At a recent auction sale held by A. F. & D. Mackay, Liverpool, Eng., 27 birch logs, 8 to 22 feet long, 14 to 22 inches, sold at 14d per cubic foot. Spruce deals from Hopewell Cape, N. B., brought £7 12 6d for 3 x 11 inch, £7 5s for 3 x 9 inch, and 26 for 3 x 7 inch. Spruce scantlings brought £5 17s 6d for 3 x 6 inch, 9 feet and up, and £5 5s for 2 1/2 x 4 inch. Spruce boards sold at from £5 12s 6d to £5 15s.

The Scott Lumber Company, of Fredricton, N. B., last week cleared a tramp steamer from St. John to Bristol, Eng., with a cargo of 1,800,000 feet of spruce deals. This makes the third cargo forwarded by them to Great Britain this season. This firm were recently notified that the schooner Romeo, bound for New Rochelle, N. Y., with a cargo of lumber loaded by them, lost her deck-load in the Bay of Fundy. The cargo was insured.

We are informed by the Montreal Lumber Company, Limited, that they have been given an order for all the lumber to be used in the construction of the plant now being erected at St. John's, Que., by James Stewart & Company, of New York, for the Singer Manufacturing Company. The approximate quantity is 1,500,000 feet, representing a value of nearly \$40,000. When we consider that the buildings are practically fireproof construction and that the lumber is required only for floors and roofing, some idea may be obtained of the extent of the proposed buildings.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN)

VANCOUVER, B.C., August 29th, 1904. — If the Finance Minister would come to the Pacific coast, and observe the condition of the lumber industry, the same as Hon. Mr. Prefontaine did the fishing industry, and take as decisive step to place it on a better footing, it would be the only proper thing to do. "I came out to see for myself," said Mr. Prefontaine, and as the result of what he saw he took immediate action which will result in benefit to the salmon fishing industry. Ministers who live three thousand miles away from the scene of the British Columbia lumber industry cannot understand the conditions under which it labors, and if Hon. Mr. Prefontaine saw for himself he would not be slow in taking some action to preserve Canada for the Canadians.

The Railway Commission may bring some relief. The sessions open here this morning, and before they are all over the lumbermen are going to appear before it, and ask if they cannot have better rates on lumber, seeing that the Government will not assist them with an equitable adjustment of the tariff. The rate for cedar to points east of the western boundary of Manitoba is fifty cents, and the millmen

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