

winter stock shown a reduction of approximately 15,000,000 feet.

The lumbermen regard the outlook for spruce lumber in a very favorable light. Logging operations are progressing satisfactorily and most of the mills expect to secure a full stock of logs. In some parts of Nova Scotia, however, limited operations are the rule and loggers are giving more attention to cutting pulp wood.

**MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

Lumbermen of the west are in good spirits over the successful year just closed and the prospects for a continuance of the good times. In Winnipeg alone \$2,395,000 was expended in 1902 in building operations, and at outside points there was corresponding activity, which called for a large consumption of lumber. During the current year farm building improvements promise to be an important factor in the lumber trade, and dealers are already stocking up to meet the demand. Prices remain about stationary, with a disposition to buy at present values in anticipation of an advance towards spring. In British Columbia the high price of logs overshadows every other feature of the lumber business. Record prices have recently been paid, with no prospect of an immediate change to a normal basis.

**UNITED STATES.**

The price list committee of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association at a meeting last week decided to make no advance in the price of dimension timber. One of the main objections was that the beginning of the year was no time to make such an advance, which might discourage prospective building operations. Fear of competition from yellow pine was advanced as another reason for continuing the price on the old basis. It was decided, however, to make an advance of \$1 on No. 1 4-inch fencing in all lengths and No. 2 4-inch fencing in 16-foot lengths. Eight inch selects were made the same price as 10-inch, which is equivalent to an advance of \$1. The statements given out at the meeting showed the white pine trade to be in a prosperous condition. While trade is light owing to weather conditions, there is a bright outlook for an active spring business. Box makers at Buffalo have advanced prices, in some cases equal to 10 per cent. Norway pine is scarce and other lumber is taking the place of it in many cases. Prices of hardwood lumber are steadily growing stronger, under the lead of quarter sawed oak. The scarcity of basswood has not been relieved, and it is remarkable that prices do not advance sharply. Black ash, elm and red birch sell freely, while maple is quieter. There continues to be an excellent inquiry for spruce. Clapboards are practically out of the market and there is an improved demand for laths, which have recovered the slight weakness which prevailed a fortnight ago.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

In respect to business for the coming season little can be said, as there have been no new developments during the week under review. The buying tendency is exceptionally dull, buyers and sellers showing no desire to come together. Importers seem to fear a retrograde movement which would render unprofitable contracts closed at present prices. Still the prospects for the new year are fairly prosperous and business is sure to become more active in the immediate future. Prices for lumber in stock are very firm; 3x9 second quality spruce is quoted at

£10 10s and third quality at £9 15s per standard. It is predicted that prices for next season will be 10 shillings in advance of 1902 contract figures. Of pine the Timber News says: Canadian pine is realizing unheard of prices, particularly the first quality broads and planks. The broad pine is unusually scarce; in fact, all pine is scarce, but the broads especially so. The last sale of a small line of 3 by 12/22 1st pine, 12/13 feet, was arranged at £33 10s per standard, but it is extremely doubtful if similar stocks could be had now even at this fancy figure. For the plank (3 by 11) £31 10s is being obtained, in small quantities, for good shipments. Second and third quality plank and deals are proportionately as dear.

**STOCKS AND PRICES.**

The city of Sherbrooke, Quebec, is asking for tenders up to January 20th for supply of 50,000 feet of lumber.

A. J. Seaman, of Port Arthur, Ont., has secured the contract to manufacture 1,600,000 feet of lumber at Nepigon, where he is setting up a portable mill.

The Ogilvie Flour Mills Company is taking tenders for the supply of 5,000 spruce, pine or tamarack piles for the construction of a flour mill and elevator at Fort William, Ont.

At North Tonawanda lath are as scarce as ever and dealers are just about cleaned out of this item. Shingles are a little more plentiful than usual, but they are held at good prices.

It is reported that Buffalo dealers will make a further advance in the price of hemlock lumber, which is now selling on the basis of \$15. The demand, especially for boards, is strong.

McArthur Bros. have contracted with the Escanaba Woodenware Co., of Escanaba, Michigan, for 40,000 cubic feet of rock elm, to be shipped to London, Eng., by vessel early next spring.

The Turner Lumber Company, of Midland, Ont., are putting in 50,000,000 feet of logs this winter, 25,000,000 of which will be manufactured at South River and 25,000,000 feet at Midland. They also are holding over 10,000,000 feet of logs to be cut at Midland the coming season.

December business at Saginaw, Mich., was fairly good in box stuff, the demand holding up active, and there is a belief that box lumber will be a scarce commodity before spring. Some orders are placed for stock to be delivered early in the year.

In Chicago pine piece stuff is selling on the basis of \$18.50 to \$19; 1-inch A select stock, \$70 to \$75; 1 1/2 to 2-inch shop, \$50; clear finish, \$80; thick uppers, \$90; No. 1 common stock boards in 8 and 10 inch widths, \$23.50 to \$24; No. 1 fencing, \$28; 2x12 in 14 and 16 foot, \$22.50; hemlock piece stuff, \$15.50 and \$16.

During the past season Buffalo received by lake 208,500,000 feet of lumber, as against 200,548,000 feet in 1901. The stock of white pine in that city is larger than one year ago, though this is not true of hardwoods. Bay City dealers report a good trade in hardwood lumber. Up the lines of railroad log run hard maple is quoted at \$13 to \$13.50, basswood at \$20 and hemlock at \$9.50.

Large quantities of pulp wood will be taken out this winter in the province of Quebec. In the St. Maurice river over 20,000 cords will be cut. The Laurentide

Pulp Company expect to get out 50,000 cords in the Grand Mere district, and the E.B. Eddy Company will secure the same amount in the Gatineau district and the Temiscaming district. The Belgo-Canadian Pulp Company is figuring on securing at least 20,000 cords, while the export to the United States will be larger than usual.

Logs are so scarce in British Columbia that recently a buyer offered \$8 per thousand feet for the content of two booms which are lying at one of the up-coast inlets. Ordinarily the logs, which were fir, would not bring more than \$4.50 or \$5 per thousand, although for several months they have brought from \$6.50 to \$7 per thousand. These excessive prices are due to the labor famine. The wages of woodsmen have been higher during the past fall than for many years past. Competent men can secure almost any pay in reason.

John Kilburn, a large logging operator in Quebec, reports the outlook for the season's work to be very promising. The cut in Quebec this winter will be about up to the average. Mr. Kilburn will cut from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 feet in Quebec, and on the American side about 1,500,000. The cut on the Alleghash this winter will not be as heavy as last winter, but there will be a larger cut on Black River. John McConnell, of Marysville, will cut from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 feet on the Black River, he being one of the heaviest operators. The output on the Tobique this season promises to be as large as last.

A. A. Scott, of McGregor, Ont., expresses the following views on the cooperage stock market: "No. 1 and sugar stock has been in good demand all season. The result is, I believe, there is little or no stock of this class in the hands of manufacturers. The price for this grade of stock has advanced from 50 cents to \$1 over last season's figures. There is, however, a large stock of No. 2 staves on hand which are being offered at a reduction of from 50 cents to \$1. The demand for hoops has been good all season, and prices have advanced

from 50 cents to \$1. I am safe in saying that we need not expect a shrinkage in prices for either hoops, heading or No. 1 staves during 1903.

**ST. JOH LUMBER SHIPMENTS.**

The shipments from St. John, N. B., to trans-Atlantic ports last year were as follows:

Ports.	Sup. ft. deals, etc.
Liverpool.....	46,642,866
Birkenhead.....	2,005,242
Manchester.....	34,754,366
Barrow.....	5,118,365
Preston.....	3,426,000
Cardiff.....	20,139,606
Sharpness.....	14,324,539
Bristol.....	3,471,005
Barry.....	1,850,879
Avonmouth.....	2,637,118
Newport.....	3,633,104
Swansea.....	3,466,251
Glasgow.....	15,895,385
Ayr.....	669,332
London.....	10,293,428
Sutton Bridge Dock.....	755,216
Limerick.....	3,518,190
Londonderry.....	1,866,856
Belfast.....	3,626,546
Dublin.....	11,595,324
Cork.....	1,872,574
Youghall.....	506,043
Drogheda.....	454,060
Bantry.....	801,035
Malaga.....	856,501
Lisbon.....	598,378
Bilboa.....	554,684
Valencia.....	842,368
Cora Blanca.....	96,572
Santa Cruz.....	1,197,306
Melbourne (Australia).....	3,192,195
Total.....	200,662,534

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