

lumber in St. Petersburg standards shipped by several firms from Montreal to the United Kingdom:

	Pig. stds.
Dobell, Beckett & Co.	27,490
W. & J. Sharples	22,134
Robt. Cox & Co.	13,123
Watson & Todd	12,821
J. Burstall & Co.	12,260
McArthur Bros. & Co.	9,551
A. Lemay	4,716
Total	102,095

The square timber trade, which must naturally be considered in a review of Quebec operations, has been characterized by a healthy demand, and light stocks are held at British ports in nearly every class except birch. The production of this wood last winter was too great for the demand, and consequently prices have dropped about 3 cents per cubic foot. Contracts for a large portion of the 1896-97 production of square and waney timber have been closed, and the opinion is quite general that no abatement in consumption in Great Britain will take place until after the first six months of the year at least.

A comparative statement for three years of the timber measured and culled by the Supervisor of Cullers at Quebec is as follows:

	1894. Cubic Ft.	1895. Cubic Ft.	1896. Cubic Ft.
Waney white pine	2,267,749	3,086,469	2,879,879
White pine	838,168	273,771	316,093
Red pine	59,053	108,601	50,609
Oak	1,256,890	1,006,139	1,139,155
Elm	528,761	596,137	416,625
Ash	183,626	149,077	83,749
Basswood		659	728
Butternut	276	642	327
Tamarac	393	554	138
Birch and maple	133,658	240,818	252,424

We are indebted to the annual circular of J. Bell Forsyth, of Quebec, for the following data bearing on the Quebec trade:

The past season has shown a marked improvement in business with the United Kingdom, both in volume and satisfactory results, fully justifying our last year's prediction of brighter times ahead with a probability of some good years of business prosperity. In the United States, the uncertainty that preceded the Presidential election delayed for a time the business improvement, which has since set in with marked benefit to the sawn lumber trade.

Shipbuilding in the United Kingdom is in a flourishing condition, all the yards being very busy with orders for home and foreign account.

Instead of a fast line of twenty knot steamers with Quebec as a summer terminus, there seems some possibility of slower boats being subsidized for Montreal business with Quebec as a port of call only, unless a more active interest is taken by Quebec citizens in this important matter.

Delegates from the shiplaborers met representative shipping merchants, early in the spring, and conceded the use of steam in loading and discharging steamer cargoes, with distinctly beneficial results to the business of the port.

Low water in the St. Lawrence during part of the season has again occasioned inconvenience to Montreal shipping, as large steamers for a time were unable to complete cargo at that port, and had to finish loading here.

WHITE PINE.—Without any great change in the supply as compared with last year, the increased shipments of past season have reduced the stock to much the lowest quantity on record. The estimated production, though probably sufficient for present reduced business, is by no means excessive for anticipated market requirements. The wintering stock, with trifling exception, is in the hands of the shipping merchants, who have also bought on contract a considerable portion of the present winter's manufacture.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896 { Square	316,093	4,251,800	537,013 Square.
1896 { Waney	2,879,879		1,474,168 Waney.
1895 { Square	273,771	2,838,080	1,090,892 Square.
1895 { Waney	3,086,469		2,254,717 Waney.

RED PINE.—The stock is very small and manufacture has almost ceased. The price obtainable for this wood in markets of the United Kingdom has of late years been quite inadequate.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896....	50,609	139,160	82,069
1895....	108,661	326,080	154,120

OAK.—An active demand in the United Kingdom has stimulated the export, and reduced stock under last year. The quantity wintering above Quebec is unusually small, being only 25,000 feet, as against 300,000 feet at Garden Island and Collin's Bay last winter.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896....	1,145,564	1,382,880	637,348
1895....	1,006,139	869,560	790,486

ELM.—The present strong demand, with active shipbuilding, will no doubt continue. The wintering stock is very small; the production will be moderate, as suitable standing timber is difficult to secure, and the end of next season may see an absolute scarcity.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896....	416,625	501,000	78,374
1895....	596,137	537,120	218,871

ASH.—The stock is much reduced, but ordinary wood is not in demand unless at very low prices. Large average ash of fine quality and color will, no doubt, be required as usual to a limited extent.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896....	83,749	113,680	42,694
1895....	149,077	146,360	118,127

BIRCH.—The markets of the United Kingdom have been oversupplied with cheap wood, sawn and in the log, from the Maritime Provinces, and by heavy shipments of western birch from Montreal. As consumption is good, price is only kept down by excessive production being forced on the markets.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896....	251,430	319,200	9,470
1895....	240,818	200,160	5,156

STAVES.—Quebec has lost the stave trade, which is now done through United States ports.

PINE DEALS.—Though the business remains largely in the hands of Quebec houses, who control it, shipments are principally made from Montreal, and to some extent from Three Rivers and other shipping points above Quebec. This will continue until Quebec people take the necessary steps to complete the contemplated rail connection with the west, through the Canada Atlantic and Parry Sound roads. If something is not promptly done in this connection, any action will soon be too late. The cuttings for next season are now all placed at last year's prices, or in some cases at an advance.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896....	657,264	400,343	142,410
1895....	823,665	501,200	135,489

SPRUCE DEALS.—The marked advance in prices here, which last year we spoke of as certain to come, has taken place. From the strong tone of markets at chief centres of consumption, and from figures obtained for Baltic goods for next year's delivery, still higher figures at no distant date seem almost certain.

The steadily increasing demand for spruce for pulp wood, for which it is unquestionably specially suitable, continues to advance the value of spruce limits.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1896....	3,915,455	3,828,258	573,413
1895....	3,878,142	3,471,700	736,216

SAWN LUMBER.—South American spruce lumber has continued in fairly good demand and business has been active in that wood. Shipments have amounted to about the same as last year, principally from the Maritime Provinces, the Saguenay and the Lower St. Lawrence ports. No appreciable advance over last year's prices has taken place up to the present, but a considerable improvement is looked for next season.

FREIGHTS.—Sail opened at Clyde seventeen shillings, Liverpool nineteen shillings, for timber cargoes, and showed no improvement as season advanced. By steam season opened at forty shillings to forty-two shillings and six pence, Montreal to leading ports in United Kingdom, and advanced towards close of season to fifty shillings, and even higher figures paid for small quantities. For timber carrying steamers sixty-

five shillings were paid early in season for Quebec loading. Rate for Clyde fell to sixty shilling summer, but advanced again in fall to sixty shillings and even higher rates.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF WOOD EXPORTED FROM THE PORTS OF MONTREAL, THREE RIVERS, BATISCAN AND SOREL, FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 30TH, 1896.

PORTS.	ARTICLE.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Montreal	Pine Deals	57,648 Std. H.	\$1,100
	Spruce Deals	6,448 "	"
	Deal Ends	5,701 "	"
	Planks, Boards, Etc.	32,691 M. ft.	"
	Other Headings, Square Timber	12,031 Tons.	"
	Total value.		\$1,100
Three Rivers and Batiscan	Pine Deals	5,839 Std. H.	\$1,100
	Spruce Deals	6,189 "	"
	Deal Ends	369 "	"
	Planks, Boards, Etc.	21,697 M. ft.	"
	Spruce Pulp-Wood		"
	Total value.		\$1,100
Sorel	Pine Deals	1,774 Std. H.	\$1,100
	Spruce Deals	1,636 "	"
	Planks, Boards, Etc.	4,134 M. ft.	"
	Total value.		\$1,100

For the year ending November 30th, 1896, there was brought to the port of Quebec by the Quebec and St. John Railway, 2,925 cars of deals and lumber, 402 cars of ties, and 2,214 cars of coal.

MARITIME PROVINCES.

The European and South American markets were the salvation of the lumber trade in the maritime provinces in 1896, the depression in the United States causing shipments to that country to decrease materially. To South America shipments totalled over twelve million superficial feet. Eleven ports in New Brunswick shipped across the Atlantic, and the statistics for 1896 show that the total exports were 366,000 superficial feet, an increase of about 95,000 feet over the exports of the previous year. John shows an increase of 40,000,000 feet. Miramichi of 24,000,000 feet. Only 1 and Shediac are responsible for a falling off in shipments, while some of the ports have their record. Manufacturers of spruce report a satisfactory season's trade, better being realized throughout the season than in hardwood as was taken out also met with sale. The condition of the shingle trade is less encouraging, depending, as it does, on the local and United States markets. The shipments of deals from Nova Scotia show an increase of 13,791,976 feet over the previous year.

The annual circular of Hon. J. B. Snodgrass, Chatham, N. B., furnishes the following interesting statistics of exports from the various ports.

The present winter has been so far favorable and the prospects are that the output will be an average one for the force employed, which is not larger than last year.

There are two pulp mills in operation in the use of about fifteen million superficial feet logs annually in the manufacture of sulphate.

The government of New Brunswick has 4,536,320 acres of timber lands under against 2,780,800 acres in 1892. In the Miramichi section nearly everything available has been taken up, and lands so poorly stocked they would not be looked at a few years ago, now eagerly sought for. Fifteen years ago brought to market were not considered quality if it took over eight pieces to make a thousand superficial feet of deals, etc. Now it takes only four or five pieces to make a thousand superficial feet of deals, etc. This, taken with the reduction in our export referred to elsewhere, looks as if our forests were overcut. I consider the above remarks applicable to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, present prices do not bring an adequate return for the forests depleted.

The stock of merchantable spruce in the port of Quebec is 6,000 St. Petersburg standards.