

THE LUMBER TRADE.

UNITED STATES MARKET CONDITIONS.

For the past two weeks the wholesale lumber market has been bordering on the sensational, says the American Lumberman. Prices are being marked up at western distributing centers with a rapidity that fairly knocks the breath out of the average retailer. In white pine the Wisconsin valley manufacturers have followed the advance made by the Mississippi valley manufacturers last week, and Chicago wholesalers have swung into line with an advance of \$1 on good lumber and 50 cents on common boards and dimensions. Down in the southwest the Louisiana and Texas millmen have ratified the advance made by the Southern Lumber Manufacturers Association, thus putting yellow pine prices from 50 cents to \$2 a thousand and higher than they were two weeks ago. Hemlock in the western territory has followed white pine with an advance of 50 cents a thousand on all items, an advance has been made of \$2 on cypress, and doors and mill work will advance next week, while even hardwoods, which were supposed to have reached the high water mark several weeks ago, are showing greater strength this month. And it is predicted that the top has not yet been reached on white pine, yellow pine and hemlock. Everybody is looking for an extremely active trade this fall, and if demand shall increase to any extent from its present basis prices are almost certain to go still higher.

CANADIAN LUMBER AND PULP.

In an article under the above heading the Canada Lumberman makes the following comments on the prospects of the pulp industry in Canada:

"The future of the pulp industry is quite as promising as that of lumber; in some respects the outlook is even more hopeful, inasmuch as no other country in the world possesses such an abundance of raw material and suitable water powers for the manufacture of pulp. These advantages are gradually becoming recognized, and foreign capitalists are showing more faith in Canadian enterprises.

Just how many pulp mill projects are under way and contemplated in Canada at the present time it is difficult to say. We should judge that there are more than a dozen that are likely to be carried out immediately, including those at Keewatin, Hawkesbury, Sturgeon Falls, and Frankford, in Ontario; at Shawanigan, Calumet, Dufferin Falls and the Lake St. John district, in Quebec; at Tobique Narrows, Salmon River and Mispic, in New Brunswick. Some of these enterprises are very extensive in character, involving an expenditure of over one million dollars.

It is with pleasure that we learn of a contemplated visit to Canada next month of a number of the leading British paper makers for the purpose of inspecting our pulp mills. The tour is to last one month, and arrangements are being made to entertain the party in a royal manner. The suggestion has been made that the provincial governments should assist in entertaining our British friends by giving excursions through some of the best spruce belts. The opportunity is one which should not be allowed to pass unimproved. That it would be of advantage to the province is certain.

The growth of the pulp wood indus-

try is said to be enhancing the value of spruce lands. When we consider the recent purchase by Mr. Lionals of pulp wood property in Quebec, valued at over one and three-quarter million dollars, this is not to be wondered at."

LEMBER TRADE NOTES.

Millwork prices are expected to advance immediately in the States.

An advance of \$2 per thousand on North Carolina pine has gone into effect.

H. H. Drake, of Red Deer, Alberta, is moving to Innisfail where he will start a sawmill and lumber yard.

The scale of prices for cypress has been sharply advanced by southern manufacturers.

Michigan hemlock lumber manufacturers held a meeting this week to consider an advance in prices. The result is not yet learned here.

There is a very heavy export demand for lumber on the Pacific coast. The Hawaiian Islands, China and South Africa are all contributing largely to this demand.

The Rat Portage Lumber company will cut 27,000,000 feet of logs this year. Their shipments of lumber for last month totalled 2,006,000 feet, an increase of 200,000 feet over the highest previous months.

Mississippi valley manufacturers of white pine lumber advanced their prices again last week \$1 per thousand on all items of lumber and 25c on lath. This makes a total advance of \$3 since the first of the year.

Graham, Horne & Co., have purchased from the Bank of Montreal, to whom they assigned, all their old saw mill plant and property at Fort William. They will get out logs this winter and commence work again in the spring.

Lumber dealers at Minneapolis report their sales so far this year as equal to the entire sale of last year.

The recent advance in hemlock prices south are said not to have adversely affected prices in the least degree. Further advances are contemplated by manufacturers.

The lake cargo shipments of lumber from Duluth for the week ended July 25, were the largest on record, amounting to almost 18,000,000 feet. It is estimated that the lumber available for shipment from that port is sold ahead practically to the end of this season.

The white pine standing in the proposed Minnesota reservation has been estimated at 5,750,000,000 feet and the Norway pine at 1,200,400,000 feet says the American Lumberman. Of miscellaneous hardwoods indigenous to the region there is said to be \$24,800,000 feet, or a grand total of timber standing on the tract of 7,775,200,000 feet. It is fair to presume that these figures are arrived at roughly, but conceding them to be approximately accurate, the entire product would if manufactured amount to about 25 per cent of one year's consumption in the United States. This, if lumbered from a scientific forestry standpoint, would yield an annual output of 200,000,000 feet in perpetuity.

A correspondent of the Wisconsin Natural History society, who has spent one year in Alaska, describes the Sitka spruce as growing very often 200 feet high and eight feet in diameter. Red and yellow cedar are also abundant and a species of pine grows on the edges of bogs, called *pinus contorta*. Willows and two

species of alder are common and in some parts cottonwood. Much of the land is boggy on account of poor drainage and covered by a mossy blanket composed of sphagnum, often covering the ground to a depth of several feet and sometimes concealing crevasses large enough to lose a man in. The exportation of lumber from Alaska is at present unlawful. The red and yellow cedar are used by the natives for building of canoes, some of these having a capacity of thirty people. The cedar trunks are also used for totem poles, one of which stands in front of each native house, carved with the pedigree of the inmates. The outer bark of the cedar is used for roofs and boat covers and the soft inner bark for ropes and mats, while the tough roots of the spruce are used for weaving baskets. A quantity of trees are also used in building and fuel. There are very few saw mills in the country.

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

There is a very active demand for silks for linings and blouses in all markets.

Fine French mohair goods have advanced so much at primary points that Canadian orders are not likely to be repeated for some time.

Linen goods continue to grow in firmness. There is an actual scarcity of Irish linen handkerchiefs among manufacturers, Swiss goods also being scarce and higher in price.

There has been a general advance in all metal lines that are akin to the dry goods business running as high as 20 per cent, curling tongs, pins and such lines being affected as a result of the scarcity and higher prices of metal.

A Yorkshire report says: "All orders for winter goods of a high class are refused unless accompanied by assurances that the full advances in price will be paid. The majority of provincial customers go in almost altogether for low-priced tweeds, serges, and so on, and all makes of these are working as hard and long as it is possible for them to do. Late every night the mills are kept open, and yet the firms almost despair of being able to complete the orders by the time contracted for."

There has been a further advance in cheap cotton hosiery. Local firms here, who have to look a long distance ahead in getting supplies, were inquiring among German agents in this market yesterday for cotton hosiery for the spring trade, and were quoted an advance of 3d per dozen. This is an important advance in the price of cheap lines, and means about 10 per cent. Other German lines of hosiery have advanced as much as 30 per cent. Medium cashmere goods are 1s to 1 1-2s dearer than they were some time ago, and very fine goods are as much as 2s up from the low point.—Toronto Globe.

The Canadian Press association excursion to the Pacific coast left Toronto on August 8.

The Commercial Bulletin of Minneapolis has issued a very handsome fall trade number.

The Port Arthur Duluth and Western railway has been sold to Jarvis & Co., acting for unknown clients, supposed to be Mackenzie & Mann, for the sum of \$500,000. The sale took place at Toronto on Friday, August 4. The road will be used as a link in the new through line to the east.