

can lumbermen last winter, which were hung up, and these do not come under the prohibitory act which went into effect on April last.

At Saginaw, Mich., all kinds of lumber are said to be short of the requirements. Mill culls sell at \$8, box lumber at \$10 and 11, Norway at \$9 and \$10, and log run at \$13 to \$18.

The most active demand for lumber in the Northern States pertains to birch, which the furniture manufacturers are using in place of quarter sawed oak. The call for birch has become so great that the supply of dry lumber is nearly exhausted. Prices of firsts and seconds range from \$22 to \$25 a thousand. The demand for common and cull basswood is in excess of the supply, and the market in respect to maple is rapidly gaining in strength.

BUFFALO AND TONAWANDA.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

There is something like the usual winter quietness in the sale of pine lumber, though the price is strong and likely to remain so, on account of the activity in the east. Eastern dealers have lost money by not laying in a stock sooner, and now that the more wide-awake seaboard dealers are alive to the situation, and are trying to buy on contract, our dealers refuse to sell on time. It is felt by all that there is more money in lumber than in long-time sales. This conclusion is the more plain from the fact that one or two dealers have been caught in that way and are being held up as a terrible example.

The rush is in hardwood. If there is a yard anywhere that has a lot of thick white ash in it, the fact has not been made known to the manufacturers of agricultural machinery. They have all been through this market and taken at sight everything in that line that they could possibly use. There was never such a demand for this class of machinery. The Johnston Harvester Works at Sylvania have a force of 600 men, which is 50 more than it ever had before, and are working overtime at that. The same report comes from the Osborne Works at Auburn. The Wagner car shops in Buffalo have lately put in electric lights, so that a night gang can be set to work.

The shortage of cars has never been more marked than now. All car and locomotive works are on full time, and shippers are complaining all along the line that they cannot get cars enough to do their business. There is no prospect of anything but a rush of all sorts of business the coming season. Buffalo will profit doubly from this time on, as the Pan-American exposition is regarded by all as a certainty. Over a million dollars was subscribed for it in a week, and the amount is now past the \$1,300,000 mark, when the million was all the promoters set out to raise. It is believed that another million can be raised by popular subscription, so that nothing will have to be raised by bonds. We are astonished at ourselves.

The Buffalo Lumber Exchange met on the 4th inst., and voted in favor of reducing the tariff on all rough lumber to \$1. It had previously voted in favor of a partial reduction, but no distinction was made this time. The meeting was held at the request of some western lumbermen, presumably from Michigan, who have undergone a change of heart of late. The meeting was not largely attended, but the secretary had received proxies enough to make it certain that more than three-fourths of the members are in favor of the reduction. I am not informed of the exact move made in Washington in the interest of a lower tariff, but it seems that some influence is being exerted on the members of Congress to modify the lumber duty. Of course, the south and the northwest will fight against it. The meeting of the Lumber Exchange gave out some statistics of the past year's business, of which the following extract is made: Lake receipts, 185,752,000 feet; rail receipts, 427,002,000 feet; total, 613,754,000 feet; shipped to customers without lugging here, 287,698,000 feet; grand total of year's business, on the estimate that stocks are at least not larger than they were last winter, 900,631,000 feet; on hand, Jan. 1, 163,352,000 feet; shipped by canal, 28,182,000 feet; by rail, 533,587,500 feet; total, 561,760,500 feet. This is a large amount of business, but it is not what the coming season will develop if the stock can be obtained.

Quite a good many changes have taken place within the past few days. The Niagara Lumber Company is to move to Cairo, Ill., in the spring. Palen & Burns, who were the controlling owners in it, have sold out to the other members E. C. Bradley, with whom is associated C. H. Foote, of Cleveland. Palen & Burns will remain actively in the hardwood

lumber business, but will not open a yard here. They report an increased number of sales since the change was made.

The H. M. Loud's Sons Lumber Company will in May move from the Ohio Basin to lower Black Rock, having rented the yard of the Arthur Hill Company, which was driven out by the \$2 duty. The Loud company is now for the first time classed as a hardwood concern.

Kung Bros., lumber and furniture, with two large stores in the city, have gone into the hands of a receiver, though on account of a personal disagreement rather than any financial difficulty. A hasty inventory finds the firm's assets much more than its liabilities. As a forced sale of the effects has been ordered, it is feared that the assets will undergo a big shrinkage in process of liquidation.

The hardwood firm of Pittman & James, with timber land and mills in Mississippi and principal office here, is in process of dissolution, H. S. James having bought out his partner, M. N. Pittman. He has not yet decided just what name he will operate under in future. It is probable that Mr. Pittman will still be connected with the business, while his son, Harry Pittman, has been engaged as foreman of the mills. Mr. James returns south again in a few days.

The firm of Mead & Stewart has separated, C. C. Mead having sold out to Isaac Stewart. John McLeod, of the R. Laidlaw Company, was in New York last week, along with some of the Tift Farm dealers, looking into a lumber failure in which all are interested. It is not known yet what the outcome will be.

Lumber carriers are saying that they expect a better season than the last was, and they are not trying to hold up rates by combining. The association did not better matters very much last season, and it created a large amount of disturbance.

BUFFALO, Feb. 6th, 1899. J. C.

CANADIAN LUMBER IN THE BRITISH MARKET.

At an auction sale held by Churchill & Sim, London, England, on January 25th, Canadian goods realized the following prices:

PIKE.—Ex Unique, from Quebec—12 ft., 3x11 3rd bright white pine, \$8 55; 12 ft., 3x10-11 in., \$8 55. Ex Cervona, from Montreal—16 ft., 2x4-7 bright white pine, \$5 55; 14-15 ft., 2x3-7, \$5 55; 12 ft., 2x2-7, \$5 55; 12-16 ft., 1 1/2 x 10-18, \$5 55; 12-16 ft., 1 1/2 x 9, \$5 55; 12-16 ft., 1 1/2 x 6, \$5 55; 12-16 ft., 1 1/2 x 4-5, \$5. Ex Hallgerda, from Miramichi (J. B. Snowball's shipment)—10-15 ft., 3x11 in. third white pine, \$6 55; 12-13 ft., 3x9, \$5 55; 14-15 ft., 3x9, \$5 55; 9 ft., 3x11 second and third quality, \$6 105; 9 ft., 3x9, \$5 55; 9 ft., 3x7, \$5 105; 9 ft., 2x10-17, \$5 55; 9 ft., 3x7-8, \$4 55; 9 ft., 3x7, \$4 55; 4-8 ft., 3x12-17, \$3 155; 3-8 ft., 3x11, \$4 105; 3-8 ft., 3x7-9, \$4 155; 6-22 ft., 1x7, \$5 105; 10-21 ft., 1x6, \$6 55. Ex Monte Videan, from Quebec—11 ft., 3x11 in. first quality pine, \$20 105; 10 ft., 3x11, \$20 55; 9 ft., 3x11, \$19; 13 ft., 3x7 10, \$18 55; 12 ft., 3x7 10, \$18 105; 14-11 ft., 3x6, \$13 155; 12-16 ft., 3x4-5, \$14 55; 9 ft., 3x9-10, \$16 155; 9 ft., 3x7-8, \$14 155; 9 ft., 3x4-6, \$13 55; 6-8 ft., 3x12-21, \$17 105; 6-8 ft., 3x11, \$18; 6-8 ft., 3x6, \$12 55; 6-8 ft., 3x7-8, \$13; 6-8 ft., 3x9-10, \$13 155.

SPRUCE.—Ex Elektra, from Quebec—12-14 ft., 3x6 in., second quality, \$6 105; 12 ft., 3x6, \$6 105; 12-14 ft., 3x5, \$6; 6-11 ft., 3x5-9, \$6 55. Ex Hallgerda, from Miramichi, N. B.—10-15 ft., 3x11 in., first, second and third quality, \$7 55; 12-14 ft., 3x9, \$7; 10-21 ft., 2x8, \$6 155; 10-14 ft., 2x8, \$6 155; 12-14 ft., 2 1/2 x 7, \$6 155; 15-23 ft., 2 1/2 x 7, \$6 155; 7 1/2 ft., 2 1/2 x 7, \$6 105; 10-23 ft., 2x7, \$7; 8-23 ft., 2x7, \$7; 12-14 ft., 2 1/2 x 6 1/2, \$6 55; 12-23 ft., 2 1/2 x 6, \$6; 8-21 ft., 2x6, \$6 55; 9-21 ft., 2x5, \$6; 6-23 ft., 1x7, \$6 105; 9-21 ft., 1x6, \$6 55. Ex Yola, from Quebec—12 ft., 3x8 in., third quality, \$6 105; 12 ft., 3x8, \$6 55; 12-16 ft., 3x7-8, \$6 55. Ex Arona, from Quebec—9-14 ft., 3x9, first quality spruce, \$7 105; 9-14 ft., 3x7-8, \$7 105; and \$7 155; 10-14 ft., 3x6, \$7 105; 9-14 ft., 3x5, \$7 105; 10-14 ft., 3x8 in., second quality, \$6 105; 9-14 ft., 3x7, \$6 155; 10-14 ft., 3x6, \$6 105; 10-14 ft., 2x5, \$6 55. Ex Livonian, from Quebec—12 ft., 3x10 in., fourth quality, \$6 105; 10-11 ft., 3x12-17, \$6 55; 10-11 ft., 3x10, \$6 55. Ex Cervona, from Quebec—12-13 ft., 3x8 in., unassorted, \$6 105; 12-13 ft., 3x7, \$6 105; 13 ft., 3x11, \$5 185; 9-13 ft., 3x11 16, \$5 155; 4-8 ft., 3x11, \$6; 4-8 ft., 3x4-8, \$5 155. Ex Ormiston, from Quebec—13 ft., 3x9, first, second and third quality, \$7 and \$7 55.

George R. Hughes has opened out in the lumber business at Tuelon, Man.

DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The United States Treasury Department has replied in the negative to the following question submitted by Senator Eugene Hale, of Maine, one of the representatives of the lumber interests of the state of Washington.

"Can American lumber, manufactured in the province of New Brunswick by a corporation organized under the laws of Maine and whose stockholders are American citizens residing in New Brunswick, be reshipped to the United States free of duty; and how, if at all, will it affect the matter if some of the stock is held by persons who are not American citizens or by persons who, although American citizens, are not residents of New Brunswick?"

There was some doubt about the law contained in section 20 of the Dingley tariff act, which says:

"The produce of the forests of the state of Maine upon the St. John river and its tributaries, owned by American citizens and sawed or hewed in the province of New Brunswick by American citizens, the same being otherwise manufactured in whole or in part, which is now admitted into the ports of the United States free of duty, shall continue to be so admitted, under such regulations as the secretary of the treasury shall from time to time prescribe."

Following its decision of 1886, when the free entry of lumber was sought by the Clark Brothers Lumber Company, the treasury department answers Senator Hale's question in the negative. The department says: "Maine lumber manufactured in the province of New Brunswick by a corporation of citizens of the United States cannot be reshipped to the United States free of duty under section 20, act of July 24th, 1897, as a corporation is not, and cannot be a citizen of the United States, to whom such privilege is confined."

BUSINESS NOTES.

Francis and Joseph Roy have registered proprietors of the sawmills of Roy & Frere at St. Jude, Que.

The stock of Mantha, Lefebvre & Laperriere, sash and door manufacturers, Montreal, was sold last week at 65 cents on the dollar.

George W. Stevens, formerly manager of the Arthur Hill Lumber Co., at Buffalo, has established himself in the lumber business at Saginaw, Michigan. He has already purchased a considerable quantity of hardwood lumber at various points.

The Burrill Lumber Company, of Forestdale, Que., has been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$30,000. The members are: William Mitchell, of Drummondville; David Mitchell, of Forestdale; Vivian Burrill, of Forestdale; Charles Burrill, of Shawenegan, and Joseph Patrick, of Montreal.

Samuel A. Skead, lumber exporter, Produce Exchange Building, New York, is announced to be financially embarrassed. Two judgments have been filed against him, one of \$8,666 in favor of Noyes & Sawyer, of Buffalo, and the other of \$1,666 in favor of the Swan-Donogh Lumber Co., of Tonawanda. Several Buffalo and Tonawanda concerns are said to be interested.

SHIPPING MATTERS.

Chartering of lumber vessels is rather backward. Owners are holding out for the new form of charter, which the timber merchants refuse to accept. 435 9d has been paid for two vessels from the St. Lawrence to London; 1,300 standards have been fixed, from Quebec to Glasgow, at 42s 6d, deals and battens, 10 per cent. boards. Two vessels have been chartered from Miramichi, N.B., to west coast England, at 45s, and another vessel of 1,200 standards at St. John, N. B., for east coast Ireland, at 42s 6d. There is a good delivery for tonnage from all the N.S. and N.B. ports at from 42s 6d to 43s 9d for regular sizes.

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FIRES.

The lumber yards of J. C. Raynor and Morgan Fulton, and the box factory of P. C. Austin, in Chicago, were totally consumed by fire on the 30th ult. The stock of lumber in the yards was valued at \$300,000.

The extensive factory of the North American Bent Chair Company at Owen Sound, Ont., was completely destroyed by fire on January 31st. The loss on building and plant is placed at \$125,000, only a small portion of which is covered by insurance.

Send four 3-cent Canadian postage stamps for a copy of the LUMBERMAN'S VEST-POCKET INSPECTION BOOK, containing rules for the inspection of Pine and Hardwood Lumber in the leading markets of Canada and the United States.

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