

Market Reports.

TORONTO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

JAN. 9.—Trade is decidedly flat here, the holiday season combined with the severe weather have completely flattened out all building operations for the present, and it is doubtful if there will be much alteration before the opening of spring. In consequence of the plasterers' strike several important jobs remain unfinished, and contractors do not feel like tendering on any new work until the present uncertainty is ended. Many of the strikers are trying to secure contracts on their own account, but property owners do not feel like giving out contracts to men of straw under the present lien law, as they may be called upon to pay twice over for the work, and therefore prefer, and I think rightly so, to let their work remain unfinished. How long this state of things will continue it is difficult to determine. In the meantime many of the families of such strikers are without the actual necessities of life during this inclement season. The trade in cordwood is brisk, and but little except green wood is to be obtained, large quantities of which is daily arriving and commands ready sale. Quotations at the yards for what little is selling remains the same, and bill stuff of which there is never any glut, will remain firm throughout the winter—18, 20 & 22 ft lengths hard to be got:

Mill cull boards and scantling.....	\$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.....	14 00
Stocks.....	14 00
Scantling and joist, up to 10 ft.....	14 00
" " " " 10 ft.....	15 00
" " " " 12 ft.....	15 50
" " " " 14 ft.....	16 50
" " " " 16 ft.....	17 50
" " " " 18 ft.....	18 00
" " " " 20 ft.....	19 00
" " " " 22 ft.....	20 00
" " " " 24 ft.....	21 00
" " " " 26 ft.....	22 00
" " " " 28 ft.....	23 00
" " " " 30 ft.....	24 00
" " " " 32 ft.....	25 00
" " " " 34 ft.....	26 00
" " " " 36 ft.....	27 00
" " " " 38 ft.....	28 00
" " " " 40 to 44 ft.....	29 00
Cutting up planks to dry.....	24 00
Boards.....	18 00
Sound dressing stocks.....	18 00
Picks Am. Inspection.....	23 00
Three uppers, Am. Inspection.....	35 00
B. M.....	
12-inch flooring, dressed.....	32 00
" " " " rough.....	16 00
" " " " dressed.....	26 00
" " " " undressed.....	15 00
" " " " dressed.....	22 00
" " " " undressed.....	16 00
Beaded Sheeting, dressed.....	22 50
Clapboarding, dressed.....	14 00
XXX sawn shingles, & M.....	3 00
Sawn lath.....	2 50

MONTREAL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

JAN. 9.—Since last report we have had steady cold weather with plenty of snow for work in the woods. Some of the manufacturers still claim that there will be a much smaller quantity of logs turned out this year, and that the probability is that prices will stiffen a little by and by, and although they are anxious to sell their lumber now, they do not care about cutting prices. The feeling in the trade is much better than it was in November last, and although there have been failures among the parties consuming lumber they have not been so numerous as was feared in the fall, and people generally have more confidence. Business is still very quiet and people do not appear to have got over the Christmas holidays and stock taking. Prices are steady and unchanged. We quote ex yard:

Pine, 1st quality, & M.....	\$35 00
Pine, 2nd " " ".....	22 00
Pine, shipping culls, & M.....	14 00
Pine, 4th quality deals, & M.....	11 00
Pine, mill culls, & M.....	10 00
Spruce, & M.....	10 00
Hemlock, & M.....	9 00
Ash, run of log culls cut, & M.....	20 00
Bass, " " ".....	17 00
Oak, & M.....	40 00
Walnut, & M.....	60 00
Cherry, & M.....	60 00
Butternut, & M.....	35 00
Birch, & M.....	20 00
Hard Maple, & M.....	25 00
Lath, & M.....	2 50
Shingles, 1st, & M.....	3 00
Shingles, 2nd, & M.....	2 50

CORDWOOD.

There has been a fair steady demand for wood during the past two weeks at firm prices, which are likely to advance, as the Canada Pacific Railway have raised the rates of freight for wood from \$11 to \$15 per car load. Prices on the wharves have not yet been changed. We

still quote prices from the wharves ex cartage as follows:

Long Maple.....	\$ 6 50
Short ".....	6 00
Long Birch.....	6 50
Long Beech.....	6 00
Tamarack.....	6 50

WINNIPEG.

The Winnipeg Commercial of Jan. 1, says: There is very little doing and not likely to be much till towards spring. Quotations are as follows:—Pine lumber, 1st, common boards, dressed, \$26.50; 2nd, dressed, \$25.50; 1st, do rough, \$26.50; 2nd, do, \$25.50; sheathing, rough, \$25; timber, 16 feet and under, \$24; do. over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet, \$1; dimension and joists 16 feet and under, \$24; do. over 16 feet for each \$1; fencing, \$25; 2 and 3 inch battens, \$30; A. stock boards, all widths, \$50; B. do, \$45; C. do, \$40; D. do, \$35; 1st clear, 1, 1 1/2, 2, and 2 1/2 in, \$50; 2nd do, \$56; window and door casings, \$50; base boards, dressed, \$50; 1st pine flooring, siding and ceiling \$40; 2nd do \$35; 3rd do, \$30; 1/2 inch split siding, dressed, \$30. Spruce lumber—timber 16 feet and under, \$22; do. over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet, \$1; dimensions and joists, 16 feet and under, \$23; do. over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet, \$1; boards, 22; 1st flooring, siding and ceiling, \$38; XX shingles, \$5.25; Star A shingles, \$3.25; X shingles, \$5.00; A. do. \$4.50; lath \$4.50.

ALBANY.

Quotations at the yards are as follows:—

Pine, clear, & M.....	\$55 00
Pine, fourths.....	50 00
Pine, select.....	45 00
Pine, good box.....	22 00
Pine, 10-in. plank, each.....	00 42
Pine, 10-in. plank, culls, each.....	00 23
Pine boards, 10-in.....	00 28
Pine, 10-in. boards, culls.....	00 18
Pine, 10-in. boards, 16 ft., & M.....	28 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 16 ft., & M.....	30 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 13 ft.....	27 00
Pine, 1 1/2 in. siding, select.....	45 00
Pine, 1 1/2 in. siding, common.....	18 00
Pine, 1 in. siding, select.....	43 00
Pine, 1 in. siding, common.....	15 00
Spruce, boards, each.....	00 00
Spruce, plank, 12-in., each.....	00 00
Spruce, plank, 2-in., each.....	00 00
Spruce, wall strips, each.....	00 12
Hemlock, boards, each.....	00 00
Hemlock, joist, 4x6, each.....	00 00
Hemlock, joist, 2x4, each.....	00 00
Hemlock, wall strips, 2x4, each.....	00 00
Ash, good, & M.....	40 00
Ash, second quality, & M.....	25 00
Cherry, good, & M.....	40 00
Cherry, common, & M.....	25 00
Oak, good, & M.....	40 00
Oak, second quality, & M.....	20 00
Basswood, & M.....	25 00
Hickory, & M.....	40 00
Maple, Canada, & M.....	25 00
Maple, American, per M.....	28 00
Chestnut, & M.....	33 00
Shingles, shaved, pine, & M.....	0 00
" 2nd quality.....	0 00
" extra, sawed, pine.....	0 00
" clear.....	0 00
" cedar, mixed.....	0 00
" cedar, XXX.....	0 00
" hemlock.....	0 00
Lath, hemlock, & M.....	0 00
Lath, spruce.....	0 00

BOSTON.

Cotton, Wool and Iron of Jan. 5, says:—

The general market is seasonably quiet, and the recent snows have put a damper upon outside operations. Pine lumber is quiet and steady, with a moderate demand, and with dry uppers scarce and commanding a fair price. Clapboards are in good request. Hemlock boards are pretty steady, and spruce is well sustained. Southern pine continues low and dull, with a small call. Hardwoods are quiet, but not particularly changed.

CANADA PINE.

Selects, Dressed.....	\$43 00
Shelving, Dressed, 1st.....	40 00
" 2nd.....	33 00
Dressed Shippers.....	27 00
Dressed Box.....	13 00
Sheathing, 1st quality.....	42 00
" 2nd.....	34 00

BUFFALO.

We quote cargo lots:—

Uppers.....	\$10 00
Common.....	13 00
Culls.....	13 00

CHICAGO.

The Northwestern Lumberman says:—Business is in about the same condition as that of last week. The outward movement is at a minimum. There is no expectation of any increase until after New Year's. Many are closing up the year's business and taking account of stock. The weather lately has been very much all sorts,

and unfavorable to doing anything in town or country. Christmas has broken up the week, and altogether affairs are as near a standstill as they could be and move at all. The side-tracks in the yards were never more bare of cars. A few yards report considerable shipping; one claiming to send out 25 car loads some days. One house reports a December business of 3,000,000 feet; another of 2,500,000. It will thus be seen that lumber still "do move," in spite of the average dullness.

TONAWANDA.

CARGO LOTS—SAGINAW INSPECTION.

Three uppers.....	\$45 00
Common.....	18 00
Culls.....	12 00

LONDON.

The Timber Trades Journal Dec. 22nd, says: The absence of any public sales of timber will be felt as a relief, just now especially, and the interval may greatly assist prices—it certainly can do them no harm. The holidays can be no obstacle to the market prevailing, although any lull in the activity of the dock deliveries will make the stocks all the more formidable when their comparative proportions are finally made up. But the reaction is sure to come, and the consumption be all the more rapid from the interruption. The winter so far has been an open one, and we apprehend that all the ships chartered a month ago have completed their voyages, and there is not much likelihood of stocks sold, at least in considerable quantities, wintering over at the place of shipment.

Doubtless all have been equally fortunate in selling out, but the expected low freights at the close of the shipping season greatly stimulated the demand, and gave those who had been holding through the summer another chance of meeting the market, of which it seems they were not slow to avail themselves. The small difference that now exists between the dock stocks of the present and past years, and which will probably be still further lessened ere the final summary is made, can be attributed almost entirely to the opportunity the cheap freights presented of sending goods forward at favorable terms. With the normal rate of freight ruling for the fall, probably the difference between the 1883 and 1882 stocks in the docks here would have been several million pieces in favor of the latter on deals alone, while the augmentation to the flooring stocks, which has turned the scale against those of 1882, is also due to a cheap rate of tonnage.

GLASGOW.

The Timber Trades Journal of Dec. 22 says:

The imports of wood goods to Clyde during the past week have been about 8,000 loads, and comprise four cargoes of Quebec timber at Greenock.

There have been no public sales to record, which might be expected at this season, and especially as the result of recent auctions, showed there was little business to be done meantime.

There has been a larger import than usual, both of logs and deals, to the Clyde the year, and stocks on hand to be made up in a week or two will, it is expected, be comparatively heavy. The increase this year consists principally of Quebec pine.

The import of yellow and red pine logs to the end of last month was about 61,000 logs, as compared with 39,000 in 1882 (corresponding period) and 51,000 in 1881; of oak, elm, and birch this year, 16,000; 1882, 13,000; and 1881, 19,000 logs.

The number of deals imported this year from Quebec and lower ports show a marked increase over the two previous years, but is under the import of 1880. The importation of pitch pine has been comparatively moderate, being represented by a carrying tonnage of about 35,000 tons to the end of November, which is considerably under the two preceding years.

NORWAY.

CHRISTIANA, Dec. 15th. 1883.—We have had an extraordinary mild autumn this year, with a great deal of rain. The fields have kept green, flowers have bloomed in the gardens as late as November 29th, and I have even seen a report in one of our newspapers to the effect that a strawberry plant in full bloom, and with one

berry nearly ripe, had been sent to the editor in the first week of December. However, this month commenced with frost, the thermometer showing on one or two occasions as much as 10 deg. Celsius below zero. This lasted for about a week, when mild weather again followed, with falls of snow and rain alternately. It is fortunate for the "driver" in the forests, when there happens to be a good frost before any fall of snow, because the marshes in that case more easily become passable than when a layer of snow (being a non-conductor) necessitates a severe cold to have the desired effect. In some parts it appears that the wished-for result took place, without having again been lost by the recurrence of milder weather, but it can hardly be said to be the case generally.

As the hay crops have been plentiful, both this year and the preceding one, horses for the transporting of wood are likely to be available on moderate terms, and I believe the case is similar as regards labourers for the forest work. Consequently the "driving" will be cheap, provided frost and snow are not going to strike. Another reason why the case is likely to prevail is this, that it is pretty certain that the number of logs will not be large, the cutting having begun very late.

If the production of this country had any serious influence upon the general wood market, it would be easy and safe to predict an improvement in prices for next year. Unfortunately it is not the case, but we must hope that our Swedish brethren will not again overload the market with an abundance of stuff next year; it is mainly on their own moderation in that respect that the earnest future of the wood market depends generally speaking.

The persual of the wood market reports from England for the month of November has not been cheering to the hearts of our shippers. Prices for floorings in the London auctions have been going from bad to worse, and stocks of planed wood are larger than the heavy ones last year, both in London and in Liverpool. It is not unlikely, under these circumstances, that our manufacturers of floorings and matchings will endeavor to decrease their production regularly, until more favourable times may return. This seems a better plan than to go on doing a large business with no profit, but perhaps at a loss occasionally. If we examine the results of the London public sales, during the present year, of Norwegian wood goods, it is impossible to repudiate the fact that there must have been losses on the same to a considerable extent, sustained either by importers, if the goods were sold beforehand, or by shippers, if they were consigned. I make out the average prices realized during the summer and autumn to be for floorings: 1st red, about £9 10s.; 2nd red, about £8 10s.; 1st white, about £8 7s.; 2nd white, about £7 17s.

As regards prices of Norwegian battens, those realized in the auctions have been ridiculously low, from £3 5s. to £6 per standard, and only in a few cases up to about £7 for 2 x 4 red.

Until quite recently sales of seasoned battens have been effected on the spot at fairly good prices, viz., about £5 15s. for red, £5 to £5 5s. for white 2nds and 3rd, with 4ths at about £1 reduction. These prices are delivered on railway trucks at Christiania, and the Fredrikstad and Dramman mills have to pay freights and charges in addition, I fancy, however, that it is now difficult or probably impossible to place battens at those rates, at the same time as some holders ask even a good deal more.

I have not heard of any sales of floorings for next year, and only of a very few cargoes of spars and poles having been placed at barely last year's prices.—Timber Trades Journal.

RAILROAD TIES.

"The railroads of this country," said an official of one of the trunk lines running out of New York, "pay nearly \$5,000,000 a year for cross-ties. The timber used is oak and chestnut in the East, and oak, cherry, locust, maple, and ash in the West and South. The best ties are made of white oak. More than 225,000 acres of forest are needed to supply these ties every year, and consequently the necessities of railroads in this one item alone form a considerable item in the destruction of our forests. The country along the line of our road alone annu-