

ST. JOHN TRADE REPORT.

St. John, N.B. June 29, 1897.

THE business of the week has not been characterized by any important change. It seems to be generally conceded that trade is not by any means as active as usual in former seasons, but taking it on the whole we do not think there is any room for despondency. Whatever is doing is being done on a sound basis, and we look forward with confidence for the future. Exchange on London has declined, and bank rates on 60 days bills have been reduced to 10 per cent prem. The probability is that as the winter production of lumber is manufactured and sent forward, Sterling Exchange will be in abundant supply, and the money market relieved of the pressure which has so long prevailed.

A preliminary meeting of the promoters of the "Merchants Bank" has been held, and stock lists have been opened in the city.

The Albert County Bank at Hillsborough, has also been organized, and sixty thousand dollars of the stock subscribed.

The shipping arrivals of the week have been more moderate than for some time past. The steam ship "St. David" arrived from Liverpool via Halifax on the 26th, with troops and a few tons of merchandise, and a vessel from the same port with salt and coals; one from Baltimore; one from Boston with general cargo, and a small vessel from Deltaharen in 110 land completes the list. The steam ship "St. David" left next day for Quebec.

LUMBER.—The clearances for the week have been heaviest of the season, comprising sixteen vessels, (most of them of large tonnage), with lumber and deals for ports in Great Britain, two for Barbadoes, and five for United States ports with sawn lumber of various descriptions. Freight rates are still quoted at their previous low rates, but as these offer no inducements for vessels to come from other ports, it is more than probable, that as the ships now in port get filled up, an advance will take place. We give below a statement showing the amount of sawn lumber in the shape of boards, scantling and planks shipped from this port to the United States, during the months of May and June, as compared with the corresponding period of last year:—

May and June 1897	May and June 1896.
4,553,000 feet.	1,390,000 feet.
Increase in 1897, 3,163,000 supl. feet.	

These figures would seem to show a great advance of our trade in this direction, notwithstanding the high prices with which our lumber is met in their markets. It must however be borne in mind that the months of May and June of last year, were those following almost immediately on the abrogation of the Treaty, and when every thing had been sent forward in anticipation of that event.

LOUR.—The flour market is rather more active and prices a little improved, but it is still very unsettled, and reliable quotations as difficult as ever. Considerable quantities have been placed at auction and although the range of prices obtained was in advance of those quoted last week, yet they are still low and scarcely, if any in advance of Montreal quotations of the same date. We give below the result of these sales as affording a better index of the state of the market than mere nominal quotations. We think, however that for the present the lowest point has been reached, and that the doubtful qualities having been got rid of, the market will assume a greater degree of steadiness. 200 bbls "Dandas," "South Oshawa," "Dandearry" and other brands realized \$7.37 to \$7.87, a lot of "Sutherland mills" \$5.00 to \$5.25 100 bbls Canada "Napier" \$6.60 to \$6.80, a small lot "New Erie" brought \$7.00, and some other brands ranged from \$6.70 to \$7.00. At the same sales a lot of rye flour was sold at \$5.00 to \$5.35. Oatmeal is in better supply, and the price has slightly declined, but it is still relatively higher than flour, being worth \$6.75 to \$7.00.

There is no change to notice in provisions

Statement of exports of lumber from the port of St. John, for the month of June, 1897, as compared with the corresponding month of 1896.

	1897	1896
Deals and deal ends, & f.	31,225,281	22,224,761
Bds, scantling and plank, & f.	4,553,577	3,907,100
Pine timber, tons.	1,214	159
White timber, tons.	653	1,243
Shingles, M.	611	611
Shingles, M.	1,159	8,764
Laths, M.	4,470	3,945
Sleepers, spars, and knees.	247	3,602

The miscellaneous exports of the month have been as follows:—

Alowies 557 bbls; salmon 805 boxes, herring 180 bbls; smoked 600 boxes; trout 6 boxes, hay 117 tons, oats 250 bushels; potatoes 332 bbls; eggs 282 bbls; coffee 17 bags; Madras 4 hds, 129 casks; gin 33 casks; vinegar 104 casks; horses 23, matches 43 cases, bricks 40,000; pig iron 241 tons; iron 227 bars, hardware 50 packages, and Chinese 390 bbls; nails 570 kegs; lime 25 casks; sheep skins 11 packages, spruce poles 1888; broom handles 61,000

The following is a list of the principal imports of the month:—

Coal 4424 tons; fire-bricks 30,490; iron 58429 bars, 1439 bbls, pig iron 553 tons; anchors 62; chains 67; nails and spikes 124 kegs; tin plates 124 boxes; y metal 212 bars; canvas 162 bales; cordage 1635 pkgs; earthenware 130 packages; salt 352 tons, 1920 bags; oakum 603 bbls; glass 603 boxes; pitch, rosin, &c. 171 barrels; flour 6201 do; corn 10 barrels; beef 80 do; pork 49 do; cheese 113 boxes; sugar 453 casks; molasses 474 do; tea 316 packages; coffee 25 bags; rice 240 do; brandy 229 casks; whiskey, gin and rum 109 do; alcohol 83 do; liquors 3557 packages; wine 175 casks; tobacco 430 packages; hides 100; pianos 4; merchandise and sundries, 6313 packages.

The Salmon Fishery of the Province is being this year prosecuted with good success. During the past month 802 boxes have left this port for the Boston market. Part of this quantity came by rail from the North shore, but the greater portion were taken in the vicinity of St. John. If to the above quantity we add that required for the supply of the local demand, it will show a very large production of this most valuable of fish. They are now in splendid condition, and remarkably uniform in size, ranging from 12 to 15 pounds each.

It is to be hoped that effectual means will be taken to preserve from utter extinction this valuable source of wealth. It is not a little remarkable that while other countries are going to heavy expense to secure by artificial means the propagation of this noble fish, we should have deliberately permitted a course which threatens its entire destruction, considering the numberless nets and weirs at every available spot, it is a marvel that any fish ever succeeds in passing them, and when this is added the impediments at the mouths of their favorite haunts in the shape of mill dams unprovided with any proper fish-way it becomes still more surprising. Already many streams which in former years were alive with fish, are now wholly deserted by them, and if the miserable system, or rather want of any system, hitherto prevalent is allowed to continue, the destruction of the fishery at no distant date is certain.

It is true something has been done during the last year or two in the way of improvement; but it is of no use to pass laws, unless means are provided for enforcing them, and we believe that nothing short of a rigid system of inspection and supervision by properly paid and qualified officers will be found effectual.

THE LEATHER TRADE.

Hus & Richardson. Seymour, M. H.
Seymour, C. E. Shaw F. & Bros.
Smith & Edmeston

THE transactions the past week have been larger, with increased sales, though the market cannot be considered as active. Stocks continue fair of most descriptions, as receipts have been fully equal to sales. SPANISH SOLE has had a better inquiry, and sales have been fair, at recent rates, with no accumulation of stock.

SLAUGHTER SOLE is not in demand, and such sales as are made consist chiefly of small parcels at about quotations.

HARNESS.—There is no special call, the recent activity having ceased, prices, however, while not materially lower, are hardly as firm.

WAXED UPPER is quiet, but at same time no difficulty is experienced in placing desirable lots, preference being given to Medium and Heavy.

GRAINED UPPER has had rather more inquiry, and sales to a moderate extent have been made at 60c. for good.

BUFF AND PEBBLED.—There is an improved demand for the former, but poor Stock is difficult of sale, and prices of inferior are lower.

PATENT and ENAMELLED continue dull, the inquiry being very slight, particularly for the latter.

CALFSKINS are not moving freely, and difficulty is experienced in closing off the Stock in market, which is mainly inferior.

SPLITS.—Some large parcels have changed hands, principally heavy, while light are less inquired for.

SHKESKINS.—The market continues as last noted, but without any activity.

MONEY MARKET.

MONEY continues easy, with only a moderate demand. Sterling Exchange is quiet, and without any change whatever since our last report.

GOLD in New York has been firm at slight advance, closing on Wednesday afternoon at 133½. Yesterday, fourth of July, being a general holiday, the New York Gold Board was closed, and no business done.

SILVER is dull, and competition amongst brokers so close that they are buying and selling at the same nominal rate, receiving the discount in bankable funds, and paying it in silver.

The following are the latest quotations of Sterling Exchange, &c. :—

Bank on London, 60 days sight	110½
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Private, " " " " " " " "	109 to 109½
Bank in New York, 60 days sight	110
Gold Drafts on New York	par
Gold in New York	123½
Silver	43 to 43½

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Business in this department of trade has been almost entirely stagnant for some weeks, and there is no prospect of any improvement for a month or more. Travellers are all home now, and importers are giving their employees their customary summer holidays. The only exception to the general dullness is in Canadian woollen goods—tweeds, flannels, &c.—in which a good trade has been doing at satisfactory prices.

The English markets are reported as unchanged in the main. The Liverpool Cotton Market is dull, and prices close weak for all varieties.

THE GROCERY TRADE.

A usual during this season of the year, business has been very quiet, and the observance of Saturday as a holiday by one portion of our citizens, and of Monday by the country generally, has not tended to increase the aggregate of trade for the past week.

SUGAR.—The small amount of stock left in first hands has been cleared out at 6c to 6½c in bond for fair Porto Rico and choice Barbadoes, and at the present price of raw sugars in the West India Islands, the United States, &c., no reduction in rates can be looked for, for some time to come.

MOLASSES.—Is only in moderate demand, but holders are firm, looking for an advance before winter.

TEA.—Twankays are firm, and in fair request. Good greens are inquired for, particularly Moyune, Young Hysons and Gunpowders, of which some sales have been made. Prices generally are unchanged but firm.

FRUIT.—Raisins, both layer and bunch are neglected, and previous prices could hardly be realised for any large quantity. Nominally however prices are unchanged.

FISH.—Nothing is being done at present, but as several cargoes are reported as being on their way to this market, and some sales announced for next week, we may look for a little animation in this article.

SALT.—The stock of Liverpool coarse is now in few hands. Large sales have been made on the wharf at 73c to 75c, at which price it is now held. Of stored, large sales have been made at 73c to 80c, and for ordinary lots it is now held at 55c.