CANADA LUMBERMAN

WEEKLY EDITION

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THIS PAPER REACHES REGULARLY THE PRINCIPAL LUMBER MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS THROUGHOUT CANADA, AND WHOLESALE BUYERS IN GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, AND OTHER FOREIGN MARKETS.

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Weekly Lumberman, published every Wednesday. Contains reliable and up-to-date market conditions and tendencies in the principal manufacturing districts and leading domestic and foreign wholesale markets. A weekly medium of information and communication between Canadian timber and lumber manufacturers and exporters and the purchasers of timber products at home and abroad.

Lumberman, Monthly. A 20-page journal, discussing fully and impartially subjects pertinent to the lumber and wood-working industries. Contains interviews with prominent members of the trade, and character sketches and portraits of leading lumbermen. Its special articles on technical and mechanical subjects are especially valuable to saw mill and planing mill men and manufacturers of lumber products.

CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

The lumber transactions of the past week have borne evidences of summer quietude. Buying has been done by consumers only where the stock was urgently needed. Yet in the face of unfavorable conditions, the market for pine is keeping up in a remarkable way. While lower prices are talked of by dealers, and might reasonably be expected at this season of the year, manufacturers refuse to yield to any demand in this direction. A few of the small manufacturers are no doubt offering stock at prices under the spring quotations, but this is the exception rather than the rule, and their action is disregarded by the largest manufacturers who make and rule the market. One of the factors of strength is that many American buyers are in Ontario ready to close contracts for large quantities of lumber. The fact is that the prices asked by Canadian pine manufacturers are lower than is quoted at the mills in the Northern States, and consequently buyers have turned their attention to this side. In Toronto trade is rather quiet and prices a little irregular. A dealer who recently gave a quotation of $18 for a quantity of 2x12 was advised by the prospective customer that he was $1.50 higher than some of his competitors. The average price is from $17 to $17.50. The strike of carpenters in Ottawa has caused a temporary falling off in the demand for lumber and in supplies generally.

It is not possible to give a favorable report of the hardwood market. The demand continues dull, with stocks at many of the mills comparatively heavy. Maple 1 to 2 inch in thickness is in fair demand, but heavier stocks, such as 3 and 4 inch, are little enquired for. Basswood and birch are firm and moving moderately, while soft elm is meeting with slow sale. It can hardly be expected that the demand will improve during July and August, but a better demand is expected in the fall. In the meantime there is the danger that manufacturers will be compelled to realize.

Lath prices are quite irregular. While some mills are asking $2.50 for No. 1 white pine lath, purchases have been made as low as $2. The tendency of the market, however, is upwards, in sympathy with the higher prices that are being asked in the United States.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

There have been no fluctuations of consequence in the Quebec lumber market, our information being that prices are practically unchanged on square and waney timber, while spruce deals are slightly weaker. Some of the shippers are understood to be sending timber to the British market on consignment. The reports regarding New Brunswick cedar shingles are somewhat contradictory. While $3 is being named by certain manufacturers as the price of extras on Boston rate of freight, other manufacturers are willing to sell at $2.90. The weak holders, however, have no large quantity to offer, and the market may be said to be in good condition. A few of the log drives have been abandoned owing to low water in the streams, and the cut of spruce is likely to be curtailed as a result thereof.

UNITED STATES.

The general lumber market of the United States is strong, with white pine leading. Dry stock is taken as fast as offered, and in some instances the sales of the past week have been made at an advance over the late ruling quotations. White pine dimension is in short supply in the Lake Superior district, and a meeting of the price list committee of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Valley Associations will be held early this month for the purpose of revising the prices of dimension and heavy timber. The manufacturers of the Wisconsin valley are already asking an advance of fifty cents a thousand on dimensions and twenty-five cents on large timber. In the Saginaw valley trade is good and prices firm. In our Bay City and Saginaw list the price of pine common has been marked up $2 per thousand, as the stocks are badly broken and receipts not sufficient to meet the demand. Norway lumber is particularly strong. At Buffalo Norway is scarcer than white pine, and the supply at the mills is understood to be light. It is probable that the season will be an exceptionally good one for Norway pine. The higher grades of pine are scarce in the Buffalo and Tonawanda markets, but the demand from the east has fallen off slightly; in fact, the eastern trade has been spasmodic all season. The spruce market is less active than it has been, but the condition of the supply is not such as is likely to cause any slump. Of the hardwoods basswood and ash are probably in most demand, the latter having come into prominence of late. Elm and thick maple sell fairly well, but there is no snap to the market. An advance in the price of lath is talked of. The price at the mill is from $2.50 to $2.75 for No. 1 white pine, and $1.75 for No. 2. In Chicago No. 1 mixed lath is quoted at $2.75 and No. 2 at $2.25. In Philadelphia lath are particularly scarce, three cargoes of New Brunswick manufacture which arrived there recently being soon disposed of. The supply of white pine shingles is so small that hemlock and other substitutes are being used.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The outlook for the timber trade in Great Britain has not improved during the past fortnight. While the consumption by some branches has increased, there has been no recovery of prices, the recent sales representing new figures for this season. Importers who contracted at the higher prices ruling in the early spring are holding their stock, and as no buying of cargoes to arrive is being done, business is practically at a stand still. The prices of Canadian deals and timber are holding up better than those of the north of Europe production. The price of second quality Quebec spruce landed in the docks at London is £10 per standards, whilst third quality is selling at £9 5s. Cargoes of St. John spruce, with an ordinary specification, say 10 per cent. of 3x11, can be bought at £6 10s c.i.f. Liverpool, while twelve months ago similar cargoes were sold at £7 15s. The market for square and waney timber is stronger than for deals and boards, although by no means buoyant. We believe it will be found in the interest of exporters on this side to curtail shipments as much as possible, and give the market an opportunity to recover.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Thomas Mackie, of Pembroke, Ont., has recently purchased fine timber limits in the vicinity of Saskatchewan, N.W.T.

Sales of hemlock piece stuff are being made in Chicago around $9.25, although a few transactions are reported at slightly lower figures.

The steamer Lycia, which is loading a general cargo at Montreal for Bristol, Eng., took on 250 standards of deals at Three Rivers, Que.

Moore & MacDonald, of Blind River, Ont., have all their logs boomed. The mill at John's Island will cut 4,000,000 feet, and a like quantity will be cut at Cutler.

A recent despatch from Whitefish River states that of the 240,000 logs cut on berth 82, the greater quantity are through the slides. In all about 35,000,000 feet of pine