short, being 15,541,320, against 19,067,880 in 1865, which must have its effect on the market in Liverpool and the Clyde, where, up to this time, it has been selling at prices far from remunerative, although the freights have been very low all the year.

RED PINE is a great drug on both sides of the Atlantic, and we cannot too strongly recommend a total cessation in its manufacture till there is some demand for it.

OAK has been heavy of sale all the season, occasioned by the want of enquiry on the other side of the Atlantic. The supply has been much short of last year, and the stock is 25 per cent less.

ELM AND TAMARAC have been difficult of sale, owing to the great stagnation in shipbuilding, and, till this branch of our trade revives, we do not recommend their being manufactured to any extent.

STAVES have been high since summer, and the stock wintering is small, and the price in London and mostly all the English markets very encouraging. We think parties in the West may calculate on prices being remunerative in 1867, as the stocks are very bare everywhere.

DEALS have been held at extreme prices all the year, and the shipments have been on a very large scale—so large indeed, as to tell seriously on the London market, which is the great centre of this portion of our export. Notwithstanding this, however, manufacturers are asking very high prices for next year's delivery, occasioned by the active enquiry of the Americans for all kinds of sawn timber, both Pine and Spruce.

FREIGHTS have ruled ruinously low all the season. We tender our thanks to Messrs. Wood, Petry, Poitras & Co., for the use of their tabular statements.

J. BELL FORSYTH & CO.

PRICES CURRENT on the 1st December, for years 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, and 1866.—

		1862. S. D.	S. D.	1863. S. D.	S. D.	1864. S. D.	S. D.	1865. S. D.	S. D.	1866. S. D.	S. D.
WHITE PINE, in the Raft, for inferior and ordinary, according to average, &c., measured off		40 0	45 0	40 0	45 0	40 0	45 0	40 0	45 0	40 0	45 0
For superior		45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0
In Shipping order, according to average and quality		14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0
Board 18 to 21 inch		13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0
RED PINE, in the Raft, measured off according to average and quality		11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0
In Shipping order, 40 to 60 feet		10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
OAK, ordinary, by the Dram		7 0	7 6	7 0	7 6	7 0	7 6	7 0	7 6	7 0	7 6
Lake St. Clair, measured off, by the Dram ...		7 6	8 0	7 6	8 0	7 6	8 0	7 6	8 0	7 6	8 0
ELM, by the Raft, according to average and quality		9 0	9 6	9 0	9 6	9 0	9 6	9 0	9 6	9 0	9 6
In Shipping order, 40 to 55 feet		11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0
TAMARAC—Square according to size, in the Raft		8 0	9 0	8 0	9 0	8 0	9 0	8 0	9 0	8 0	9 0
Flatted, do		6 0	7 0	6 0	7 0	6 0	7 0	6 0	7 0	6 0	7 0
STAVES for specification, Merchantable ...	£	43 10	47 10	43 10	47 10	43 10	47 10	43 10	47 10	43 10	47 10
All Pipe		45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0	45 0	50 0
W. O Puncheon, Merchantable		14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0	14 0	15 0
DEALS—Bright, 1st quality		12 0	13 0	12 0	13 0	12 0	13 0	12 0	13 0	12 0	13 0
Do 2nd do		10 0	11 0	10 0	11 0	10 0	11 0	10 0	11 0	10 0	11 0
Floated, 1st quality		13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0	13 0	14 0
Do 2nd do		11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0	11 0	12 0
Spruce, 1st quality		6 10	7 10	6 10	7 10	6 10	7 10	6 10	7 10	6 10	7 10
Do 2nd do		5 0	6 0	5 0	6 0	5 0	6 0	5 0	6 0	5 0	6 0

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the supply, export and stock of lumber, to the 1st December, for the years 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, and 1866, respectively, with averages for the same period.

ARTICLES.		SUPPLY. From Returns from Superintendent and others, Year ending 1st December 1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	Average of 5 years Supply. 1862 to 1866.	EXPORT. From Customs' Returns for years ending 1st December. 1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	Average of 5 years Export. 1862 to 1866.	STOCK. INCLUDING MERCHANTABLE AND CULLS, On the 1st December 1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	Average of 5 years Stock 1862 to 1866.
TIMBER.																			
Oak	feet	2,206,453	1,068,818	3,717,012	2,775,089	1,899,113	2,499,711	1,463,690	2,085,289	2,453,720	2,699,696	1,895,489	2,121,900	1,298,008	931,145	1,793,082	1,705,799	1,417,285	1,373,183
Elm	do	1,671,176	2,958,417	2,649,565	911,014	954,272	1,840,151	1,600,296	2,128,840	1,957,968	1,217,240	1,332,990	1,517,122	968,978	1,555,969	2,332,101	1,748,841	1,232,214	1,555,805
Ash	do	25,443	68,855	17,175	81,257	116,214	73,919	50,340	206,750	221,840	114,880	163,000	159,590	157,288	441,834	406,275	262,841	190,237	291,695
Birch	do	14,832	213,852	346,841	292,243	323,463	292,252	136,484	93,750	358,240	374,850	402,000	225,280	63,103	14,667	20,503	93,639	72,644	62,336
Tamarac	do	1,255,553	2,661,622	2,661,622	446,122	412,874	1,148,355	57,126	249,690	190,129	289,000	221,889	195,600	373,639	1,098,695	1,048,821	748,447	628,333	667,716
White Pine	M.	21,527,853	21,011,455	23,735,295	17,620,275	14,388,310	19,791,238	23,147,620	20,632,520	19,007,889	15,641,320	18,614,464	18,968,678	17,561,009	12,429,820	10,576,116	14,043,310	13,817,220	12,920,415
Do wancy. ...	do	748,414	185,848	55,596	1,187,195	2,235,055	1,402,421	4,411,601	2,401,129	4,049,000	3,199,900	3,531,336	3,949,944	1,224,205	348,187	752,063	1,317,220	4,79 67	
Red Pine	do	4,023,601	5,103,620	5,484,948	5,151,935	2,619,885	4,411,601												
STAVES.																			
Standard	mille	1,453	1,913	1,817	1,014	1,383	1,322	1,286	1,282	2,211	1,713	1,877	1,779	827	916	1,093	425	892	1,027
Puncheon	do	2,387	4,088	4,623	1,357	1,558	2,922	2,922	2,191	3,564	2,740	3,262	2,889	2,202	3,868	2,251	185	1,927	21
Barrel	do	21	76	22	3	2	25	25			0	9	8	46	18	42	0	21	
DEALS																			
Pine	Standard	2,321,229	2,505,693	3,013,115	3,708,006	4,216,774	3,165,653	3,493,299	5,207,163	6,016	3,688,000	4,838,346	4,778,822	1,173	3,020,141	1,832,016	1,684,577	1,468,010	979,577
Spruce	do	815,153	629,657	732,120	697,330	931,913	763,210	4,296	3,564	6,189	711,237	452,232	771,455	1,100	641,690	338,008	561,689	191,879	332,573
LATHWOOD.																			
Red Pine and Hemlock ...	cord.	5,221	1,715	2,969	2,969	1,941	2,974					6,094	4,293	5,296	3,042	2,123	1,400	1,756	1,962

BIRMINGHAM AT WORK.

(From the Times.)

(Continued.)

On locks and lockmaking we have a carefully-compiled paper by Mr J. C. Tildesey The lock trade is principally centred in Wolverhampton and Willenhall, and the district turns out the amazing number of 31,500 doz n locks per week The prices vary considerably; there are elaborate contrivances worth £3 a piece, and there are common padlocks at 6d. a dozen. The trade is mostly in the hands of small masters, who, in the inferior branches, are apt to study rapidity of production rather than excellence. A proverb says that if a Willenhall maker drops a lock he does not stop to pick it up; he can make another in less time A master locksmith being taunted with having sold some padlocks which would only lock once, replied, "It would be a shame if they *did* lock twice for twopence." The same locks are now sold at a halfpenny each! One of the lockmaking villages bears the singular name of New Invention. When there was only one house on the spot, the owner was troubled with a smoky chimney. He made an apparatus to cure it, and was never tired of displaying his "new invention." The nickname was applied to his house, and, as other houses arose, to the entire hamlet. Our readers need scarcely be reminded of the famous names of Bramah and Chubb, or how the challenge-lock displayed by the former, in Piccadilly, was picked, in 1851, by Hobbs, the American, after sixteen days persevering labour. Chubb's locks are made in a series, each lock having a separate and different key while a master-key is supplied for opening any number that may be required Locks might be made for every door in London with a different key to each, and a master-key to the whole. Messrs Chubb constructed such a series some years ago for the Westminster Bridewell. There are 1,100 locks, with separate keys for the subordinate officers of the prison, and a master-key for the Governor If any of these locks are tampered with, none of the under-keys will regulate it, the master-key alone will restore it to its original state The condition of the operative locksmiths has improved of late years, but there is still room for amendment. The hours of work are long; boys are employed at a very early age; and Saint Monday is still observed. In one lock factory, which may be taken as a sample of the district, 70 per cent. of the artisans are members of friendly societies; 50 per cent. can read and write; 15 per cent. belong to a mechanics' institute; 10 per cent. have accounts with the Post-Office Savings-banks; and 5 per cent. own the cottages in which they live.

Under the head of boiller-plate making, a vast variety of articles is included, such as sugar clarifiers, tanks, cisterns, galvanized iron roofing, and gas-holders. Steam machinery has greatly developed this trade during the last half-century. Formerly the process of punching holes was performed by hand, and it required five or six blows with a 14lb. hammer to make a hole five-eighths of an inch in diameter through a ¼in. iron plate. In contrast to this we read of a machine which punches 80 bigger holes through a thicker plate in 15 minutes! Gas-holders have increased enormously in size. Those constructed in 1812 contained 10,000 cubic feet of gas, and were reckoned dangerously large. There are several now in London containing nearly 2,000,000 cubic feet. The adoption of the telescopic plan has immensely enlarged the stowage capacity of the vessel without increasing its diameter.

For many years past the hand-made nail trade has been in a depressed condition. Machine-made nails, which are cut out of flat sheets of iron, can be made more cheaply. Hand-made nails are hammered out of rod-iron, and are much firmer and more ductile, so that up to a certain extent they still hold their ground. Upwards of 20,000 persons are still dependent on this pursuit for their livelihood. The nailer works at his own home, and is usually assisted by his wife and children. He receives a certain quantity of rod-iron at the beginning of each week from the nailmaster's warehouse, and is expected to return it in the form of nails. Perpetual strikes, low wages and the truck system have *reduced the nailers* to a very degraded state

At the best of times their earnings do not exceed 12s. or 16s. weekly, and many cannot earn 10s. Many workmen sell their nails at the truck-shop every day and some before every meal One would think that the trade is hopelessly sunken, and ought to be abandoned The writer of this report does not think so. He maintains that there will always be a demand for hand-made nails, and that if the truck system were abolished, the superior quality of the English hand-made nails would regain many markets which are now supplied by the so-called cheap Belgian nails.

People who never set foot in Birmingham have heard of Messrs. Chance, of Spon-lane, the celebrated glass manufacturers. There are several well-written articles in this volume by a member of that firm; but we would especially call attention to an excellent essay by Mr. Kenward on the dioptric lights manufactured by Messrs. Chance & Co. The reader may ask, What are dioptric lights? We will try and explain. Long after lighthouses had attained great architectural excellence, their illuminated summits—which were the sole object of their existence—remained in a very primitive state. The present Eddystone lighthouse, when finished in 1759, was decorated with a crown of four-and-twenty candles, while the Bell Rock light was nothing more than a big coal fire. The first grand reform was effected by the invention of the argand burner It was found that when a lighted wick was covered with a tapering glass chimney, air being freely admitted from below, the swiftness of combustion was greatly stimulated, and a dull smoky flame converted into a brilliant white light. We see this invention every evening in our common table lamps, and it seems perfectly obvious and easy; but it was not discovered without much pains and difficulty. The argand bur