

rule for some time past. The log drives are as yet in an uncertain position, and should any number of them be tied up sharp advance in white pine lumber would be the result. There has been liberal buying by United States firms, it being estimated that over 100,000,000 feet of this season's cut has been taken for shipment to Saginaw and Bay City. There is considerable activity in hardwoods. Dealers are open for stocks and manufacturers are anxious to clean up their yards, if possible, before getting into the new cut. This accounts for some irregularity in quotations. The shingle market is uncertain. Manufacturers of white pine shingles have not lowered their prices but competition from the British Columbia product is being felt quite keenly. Present prices of B. C. shingles for Ontario delivery are: XXX, \$2.95; XXXX, \$3.15; XXXXX, \$3.50.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The prospects for a fair demand for lumber for local consumption are quite favorable. Buying is proceeding with some activity and prices are ruling firm. Common lumber leads both in demand and price, quotations being slightly in advance of those ruling last fall. This is not the case with the higher grades of lumber, which have been affected by the falling off in the export business. In Montreal some anxiety is displayed on account of the attitude taken by some of the trade unions in demanding an unreasonable scale of wages for the coming season. A few minor strikes have already taken place, but it is hoped that a satisfactory settlement in all instances may be reached at an early date so that building operations may not be seriously interfered with. Local trade in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia has improved during the past week, but the lumber market as a whole is unsettled. Merchantable spruce logs have sold at Fredericton within the last few days at \$9.25 per thousand feet. This is a decline of \$1.50 as compared with one year ago, and reflects the depression which prevails in the British trade. The shingle market is firm, with New Brunswick extra cedars offered at \$3.45 for Boston delivery.

UNITED STATES.

Fine weather has had its effect and imparted a more buoyant tone to the lumber market. Retail dealers are placing orders quite liberally and are accepting quotations much more promptly than earlier in the season. An inclination is shown to put stocks in shape to handle the spring

and summer trade, which is expected to be of normal proportions. The quantity of unsold stock at the mills is now very light and dealers are finding some difficulty in locating certain grades. There will be a plentiful supply as soon as the new cut is in shipping condition, but the fact that much of the early output of the mills has been contracted for gives a very firm tone to such grades as are in light supply. In the coarse grades of pine the box requirement has absorbed everything available, while Norway piece stuff has been benefitted by the resumption of building operations on a large scale. There will be a heavy movement of lumber from the Lake Superior district to the wholesale distributing centres in the east, but as retail dealers are practically bare of stock no abnormal accumulation is likely to result. Among the hardwoods, basswood is showing a little weakness, but not sufficient to cause any anxiety, as the present condition of supply and demand will prevent more than temporary depression. Birch still sells readily, and the demand for lath is picking up.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The slight improvement in the British lumber trade continues. The most favorable development of the past week has been an increased consumption. The deliveries from the docks have been quite large and the demand decidedly better than it has been for some time past. There has not been much improvement in prices, however, although the results of recent sales indicate a hardening tendency for some lines. The recent drop in prices made by Swedish shippers has encouraged buyers to place contracts, although a few are still holding off in the hope of buying at rock bottom. Nevertheless, a large quantity of stock has been placed during the past fortnight, and there is no doubt that the feeling in regard to the future is more hopeful. As for Canadian lumber the better qualities of pine deals are meeting with some demand and pine stock boards and sidings are enquired for frequently. There is a so some enquiry for Quebec spruce deals, but buyers are still fighting the prices asked by shippers, which are about £9 per standard for thirds.

Canadian lumber has figured prominently in recent public sales. Messrs. H. & G. Curven, of Preston and Fleetwood, sold a quantity of Quebec pine sidings, said to contain 80 per cent. of first quality, at from £20 10s to £24 10s per standard, and a lot of strictly first quality at £27 to £28. These prices are low as compared with what is asked for this season's de-

liveries. At Messrs. Farnworth and Jardine's sale at Liverpool, second quality pine deals, 3 x 11 inch, brought £16 and third quality £12 5s. Red pine deals sold at £10 10s. Pine scalings, 3 x 5 and 6 inch, third quality, brought from £9 to £9 12s. 6d.

STOCKS AND PRICES

The steamer Ovidia is loading a cargo of 1,600 standards of deals at West Bay, N.S., for West Hartlepool.

Knight Bros., of Berks Falls, Ont., purchased at auction the Brodhagen Lumber Company's logs on Horn Lake for \$4,100. John Bennet, of Mitchell, bought the timber on the Reasin Lake property.

Two camps operating on Brule Lake for A. Earnet, of Renfrew, Ont., took out 5,000,000 feet of white pine and hardwood logs during the past winter. It is estimated that there is 20,000,000 feet of birch on Mr. Earnet's limit.

The following comparison of lumber prices at Buffalo is interesting:

	1903.	1904.
1-inch Uppers	853	800
1 1/2, 1 3/4 and 2-inch Uppers	60	60
2 1/2 and 3-inch Uppers	18	8 1/2
1-inch Selects	44	72
1 1/2, 1 3/4, 2-inch Selects	55	72
2 1/2 and 3-inch Selects	60	75
1-inch F. Com.	40	60
1 1/2, 1 3/4 and 2-inch Com.	44	60
1-inch No. 1 Cuts	34	55
1 1/2, 1 3/4 and 2-inch Cuts	40	55

Under date of April 23rd Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company say of the Barbadoes market: "Our market still remains well supplied with all descriptions of lumber, as stocks have not been worked off as rapidly as usual at this time of the year. We think that a small cargo of white pine would bring \$25 for shippers and \$20 for second quality, while we cannot value spruce at over \$20. Hemlock is probably worth about \$17. Dimension and Gaspé shingles are very scarce and next arrivals will bring about last prices. Cedar Laying, which a short time ago were in full supply, are being gradually worked off, and we value next arrival, if not excessive, at \$2.15."

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- Wm. PHILLIPS, G. E. A., 59 King St. East, Toronto, Ont.
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