

centage of the best grades of white pine has passed out of the hands of manufacturers, and of late a greater disposition has been shown by buyers to take the lower grades. Nearly three months will elapse before the new cut will be in marketable condition, and in the meantime there is certain to be a shortage in many items.

In some districts milder weather has put an end to the hauling of hardwood logs, although until recently operations were conducted under favorable conditions. The crop will not be larger than can be easily taken care of. Birch lumber is meeting with more favor and the stock is comparatively low. Elm and maple are steady, with some manufacturers asking an advance of one dollar over recent quotations. Hemlock continues to stiffen in price.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The chief interest of the lumber trade of the Maritime Provinces is centred on logging operations. Throughout the greater part of New Brunswick the snow is so deep that great difficulty has been found in hauling logs from the yards to the landings, while in some sections logging operations have been abandoned altogether. A large operator says that yarding has ceased, with only 75 to 80 per cent. of the usual quantity of logs in. Teams are scarce and operators are paying 25 per cent. higher wages than usual for hauling to the landings. As a result of these conditions the logs will be secured at greatly increased cost, which cannot but have an appreciable effect upon the price of manufactured lumber. Buyers who have been holding off in the hope of obtaining price concessions are likely to find that in order to obtain the stock it will be necessary to meet the ideas of manufacturers.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The prospective activity in building operations in the West is regarded as very favorable to the lumber trade. In Winnipeg the year is expected to be the most active in this respect which has ever been experienced, and the same may be said of many western points. The demand for lumber is increasing and prospects are bright. The new white pine list for Winnipeg shows sharp advances in finishing material and smaller advances in other items. British Columbia lumbermen have booked large orders for heavy timbers and rough lumber for railway work, as well as for shingles. Some manufacturers fear that they will be compelled to refuse orders in the near future.

UNITED STATES.

The situation in the United States in respect to the purchase of mill cuts does not correspond with that in Canada. There has been less buying since the first of the year than during the same period for many years, although the strength of the market has been maintained. The prospects for a fair supply of lumber this season are good, and as the supply at wholesale centres is considered sufficient for the trade until the new supply is available, there have been few strong inducements to purchase heavily in advance. Nevertheless, those who have closed contracts acted wisely, as there has been a slight stiffening of prices. In some quarters a weaker market is anticipated later in the year, and some dealers are disposed to delay the closing of contracts in expectation of this result. Buf-

falo has a fair supply of white pine, but the stock of common and box is light. The high price of good pine has resulted in a larger consumption of the lower grades. Firmness characterizes the hemlock situation. In New York the price of the Pennsylvania product was last week advanced 50 cents, making the basis \$17. In Buffalo the base price is \$15.50, and in Chicago \$14.50. There have been reports of a scarcity in the supply of Michigan hemlock. No change of importance has taken place in the hardwood market. There is really no stock at the mills, while the demand continues to expand. Some eastern manufacturers of maple flooring recently made a cut in prices, but this has been adjusted and prices restored to the former basis.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is difficult for anyone to forecast the immediate future of the British timber market. Compared with previous years very few contracts for the season's supply have been closed, as importers cannot see their way to pay the prices asked by shippers. They fear that the higher values will check consumption and are in hope that shippers will eventually make concessions. The high cost of new stock has strengthened the price of lumber on hand and made it comparatively easy to effect sales. First and second quality pine deals are in light stock and sell very readily. At recent auction sales high prices were obtained for spruce, second quality 3x9 bringing £10 5s. per standard and third quality £9 15s. It is predicted that £10 15s. and £10 will be reached under the hammer for second and third quality spruce deals before the arrival of new goods. Importers are holding back and hope to eventually contract for spruce at £9 10s. for second quality and £9 for third quality, 3x9, c. i. f. London. A few sales have transpired for third quality at a shade below £9 5s. c. i. f. There is a good demand for waney pine timber, but square is quiet.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Robert Gass, of Shubenacadie, N. S., expects to cut 5,000,000 feet of lumber this season.

Graham, Horne & Company will supply the lumber required by the Corporation of Fort William, Ont.

At Cleveland, Ohio, the list price for hemlock piece stuff is \$16 for 12, 14 and 16 foot, \$17 for 18 foot and \$18 for 20 foot.

J. C. Baker, of Richford, Que., has 80,000 logs at South Bolton ready to be rafted down the Missiquoi river in the spring.

Mr. McGinnis, of Rockland, Ont., has been awarded the contract of rafting the logs at Gatineau Point for the Hawkesbury Lumber Company.

The De Laplante & McBurney Lumber Company, of North Tonawanda, N. Y., have already purchased 38,000,000 feet of lumber to supply their trade of the coming season.

A two-mile timber berth on the South-west Miramichi river below Deaktown, N. B., will be offered for sale at the Crown Lands office, Fredericton, N. B., on March 18th. The applicant is W. L. Tibbitts.

T. Prefontaine & Company have secured the contract for the supply of spruce planks required by the Road Committee of Montreal, at \$30 per thousand. The Montreal Lumber Company will

supply tongued and grooved white pine at \$19.50 and rough white pine at \$18. Tamarac floats will be furnished by G. A. Grier at \$14.50.

The St. Croix Lumber Company, which recently purchased from T. G. McMullin, of Truro, N. S., a valuable saw mill and thirty thousand acres of timber land at St. Croix, Hants county, expect to market 6,000,000 feet of lumber this season.

At Ashland, Wis., all kinds of box lumber are high and cannot be had even at the prices asked, due to the fact that all of last season's cut has been sold and a large amount of the cut of this year contracted for at prices ranging from \$10.75 to \$11.25 for No. 4 boards and \$5.50 to \$6.50 for No. 5 boards. Some dealers claim that \$12 for No. 4 boards will be reached this year. Lath are in good demand with a fair supply on hand, No. 1 white pine selling at \$3.25 and No. 2 at \$2.75.

At Buffalo there is a very firm feeling in slack cooperage stock. The supply is light and not likely to be large right away if ever, so that the producer and jobber find it necessary to hold firm, especially as they know that the limit has been about reached in substitute package until something new is discovered. The city demand for barrels is called light, though some of the shops are running pretty strong. Jobbers quote first-class dry elm floor-barrel staves at \$9.25 to \$9.50, first-class basswood heading at 6 to 6½ cents and coiled hoops at \$10 to \$10.50 for 6-foot and \$9.75 to \$10.25 for 5½-foot. Stocks are rather light here at present, but promise to increase steadily.

Secretary Mixer, of the Buffalo Lumber Exchange, has just completed the statistics of the lumber trade of that city for the past year and is able to make a fine showing. He finds that the lake receipts of lumber were 208,586,000 feet, an increase of 8,128,000 feet, and of shingles 188,068,000, an increase of 36,225,000. The rail receipts, all reckoned as lumber, were 155,563,000 feet, an increase of 23,663,000 feet. This total of 391,095,000 feet is practically doubled by the shipment of 389,638,000 feet to customers direct that did not come to Buffalo, making a grand total of 780,733,000 feet. The amount on hand at Buffalo at the beginning of the year was 196,707,000 feet, all reckoned as lumber, an increase of 6,406,000 feet. The increase in white pine was 11,578,000 feet, and there was a small increase in hardwoods but norway and hemlock fell off.

The Rat Portage Lumber Company have sold their retail yard in Winnipeg to Alex. Black, who will carry on the business in future. The company will confine itself hereafter to its wholesale trade.

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CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

From Dighy, N. S.; Bark Swansen, for Buenos Ayres, cargo lumber.

From Bear River, N. S.: Brigit. Bertha Grey, for Cienfuegos, lumber, shipped by Clarke Bros.

From Annapolis, N. S.: Bark James Daley, for West Indies, lumber, shipped by Pickles & Mills.

From Halifax, N. S.: Steamer Orinoco, for St. Vincent, British West Indies, 21,206 feet spruce, value \$430. Steamer Urania, for Porto Rico, 16,876 feet spruce, value \$185. Steamer Pictorian, for Liverpool, 60,498 feet spruce deals, value \$703. Steamer Tritonia, for Glasgow, 105,930 feet hemlock, value \$2,500, 199,306 feet spruce, value \$1,987. Schr. Tyree, for Brazil, 20,725 feet spruce, value \$244.

From St. John, N. B.: Steamer Lake Megantic, for Avonmouth, 3,724 bundles shooks, by Troop & Son; 208,987 feet deals, 44,732 feet scantling, 23,755 feet ends, 140,398 feet birch plank, 12,983 feet birch ends, by W. M. Mackay. Steamer Araucania, for Brow Head, 148,643 feet deals, 5,960 feet boards, 75,280 feet ends, by F. E. Neale. Schr. Viola, for Boston, 94,320 feet plank, 100,588 feet scantling, by A. Cushing & Company. Schr. A. P. Emerson, for City Island, 81,044 feet deals, 837,000 laths, by Stetson, Cutler & Company.

DOORS AND MOULDINGS.

A large buyer of Canadian white pine doors and mouldings is open to contract with a mill for their entire output of No. 3 and 4 qualities of doors and all their mouldings during 1902. Write in first instance to "Empire," CANADA LUMBERMAN.

The Nova Scotia Lumbermen's Association recently held a conference with Hon. A. G. Blair, Minister of Railways and Canals, on the subject of freight rates lumber. As a result the Minister decided not to introduce the proposed increase on spruce, which was to go into effect on April 1st, but to allow the present tariff to remain as it is until August 31st in order to allow those who had made contracts to deliver them without loss on account of increased rates.

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