

TOKYO.

JUNE 24.—Carload lots of the lower grades of boards still continue to drop in price. Good mill run boards, free from rot, but culled for other defects, and that were considered good value by retail dealers in the early spring at \$9.50 per M., can now be bought at \$8.50 and sometimes at \$8.00 per M. on the cars here. The better grades hold their own and will continue to do so during the remainder of the season. Bill stuff also, as predicted in my earlier letters, maintains the same figures \$11.50 by carload, for lengths up to 16 feet, and 50 cents extra for every two feet in length above 16 feet.

The yards all seem to be doing a fair trade. Considerable complaints are made, however, of the difficulty experienced in making collections. This may, I think, be ascribed mainly to the fact that contracts taken in the early part of the season, are now just finishing up, and architects are careful to keep back enough to see the contract through. At the docks shipments are slow indeed. It is questionable if there is much more of the dry stocks to come forward, and but little of this season's cut is as yet fit for shipment. Cherry lumber is extremely scarce here, and good lots of number one and two will bring as high as \$50.00 per M., it must be good, however, in order to realize this figure. Good black ash will also sell readily.

Mill cut boards and scantling.....	\$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.....	12 00
" " " stocks.....	14 00
Scantling and joist, up to.....	13 60
" " " " 18 ft.....	14 60
" " " " 21 ft.....	15 50
" " " " 22 ft.....	16 50
" " " " 24 ft.....	17 00
" " " " 26 ft.....	18 00
" " " " 28 ft.....	19 00
" " " " 30 ft.....	20 00
" " " " 32 ft.....	21 00
" " " " 34 ft.....	22 50
" " " " 36 ft.....	24 00
" " " " 38 ft.....	27 00
" " " " 40 to 44 ft.....	34 00
Cutting up plants to dry.....	20 00
boards ".....	18 00
Sound dressing stocks.....	23 00@30 00
Picks Am. inspection.....	25 00@40 00
Three umbers, Am. inspection.....	25 00@40 00

11-inch flooring, dressed	50 00
14 " " " rough	16 00
14 " " " dressed	22 00
14 " " " surfaced	15 00
1 " " " dressed	22 00
1 " " " undressed	10 00
Boarding, dressed	22 50
Boarding, dressed	14 00
XXX sawn shingles, 8 M.	2 00
Sawn lath	2 75

Pine lumber, 1st. common boards, dressed.....	936	50
do, 2nd, dressed.....	25	60
do, 1st dressed rough.....	20	10
do, 2nd do.....	25	50
Shedding, rough.....	25	00
Trimmer 16 feet and under.....	24	00
do, over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet.....	1	00
Dimension and joists 16 feet and under.....	24	00
do, do, over 16 feet for each.....	1	00
Fencing.....	25	00
2 and 2 in. balena.....	30	00
A. pick boards, all widths.....	60	00
C. do. do.....	45	00
D. do. do.....	45	00
1st clear, 1, 3, 1, and 2 inch.....	60	00
2nd do. do.....	56	00
Window and door casings.....	50	00
Base boards, dressed.....	50	00
1st pine flooring, siding and ceiling.....	40	00
2nd do. do. do.....	35	00
do. do. do.....	30	00
1 inch split siding, dressed.....	30	00
Spruce lumber—timber 16 feet and under.....	22	00
do, over 16 feet for each additional 2 feet.....	1	00
Dimension and joists, 16 feet and under.....	23	00
do, do, over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet.....	1	00
Boards.....	22	00
1st flooring, siding and ceiling.....	23	00
XX shingles.....	5	25
Star A shingles.....	5	25
X shingles.....	5	00
A. do.....	4	50
Loth.....	4	50

JUNE 24.—There has been comparatively nothing doing in the lumber trade since our last report. There has been only a slight demand for building lumber, to make up for this to some extent the demand has been lively for stuff for building arches and grand stands for the St. Joan Baptiste celebration which begins here to-day, and continues all the week, and until this is over dealers don't expect to do much

As a large number of Americans are here the trade expect a goodly number of orders to be left for hardwood. Ash continues to be inquired for and there has been a fair quantity shipped to the United States. Our prices are unchanged, but there is a considerably firmer feeling in the market. We quote prices as follows ex yard:

Pine, 1st quality, @ M	35	00	34	00
Pine, 2nd	25	00	34	00
Pine, shipping culls, @ M	14	00	31	00
Pine, 4th quality deals, @ M	21	00	31	00
Pine, mill culls, @ M	10	00	31	00
Spruce, @ M	3	00	31	00
Hemlock, @ M	3	00	31	00
Bar, run of log culls out, @ M	20	00	25	00
Oak, @ M	17	00	30	00
Bark, @ M	40	00	30	00
Walnut @ M	60	00	100	00
Cherry, @ M	00	00	30	00
Butternut, @ M	35	00	30	00
Birch, @ M	20	00	25	00
Hard Maple, @ M	35	00	30	00
Lath, @ M	1	75	00	00
Shingles, 1st, @ M	2	50	00	00
Shingles, 2nd, @ M	2	00	00	00

Shipping has been rather quiet for the last two weeks owing to the scarcity of tonnage. The ship Cambridge sailed for South America on the 19th, and several more vessels have been chartered for the River Platte at \$13 to \$14. Rates to English markets are steady at 40s. to 50s. At the moment there is enough tonnage offering for all demands. The following are the recorded shipments since our last report: SS Rokely for Sharpness, 20,234 deals and 1,068 ends; SS Cremona for London, 7,654 deals and 381 's; BK Venus for London, 56,941 deals and 2,000 ends; SS Cella for London, 41,749 deals and 4,003 ends; SS Polynesian for Liverpool, 3,647 deals; SS Oregon for Liverpool, 4,061 deals; BK Onje, The Downs, 8,915 deals and 2,020 ends; SS Fenwood for London, 11,770 deals and 200 ends; SS Lake Champlain, for Liverpool, 5,939 deals; SS Concordia for Glasgow, 5,591 deals; Ship Cambridge for Buenos Ayres, 56,986 pine boards 949,733 feet; SS Montreal for Liverpool, 1,895 deals.

There has been an improved demand during the past week for wood and it is expected to continue for some time as people are laying in their season's stock. Tenders are advertised for considerable quantities for the Court House and corporation, but the awards have not yet been made. Prices are steady and unchanged, with ample stocks. We quote ex cartage at the wharves as follows:—

Long Maple.....	2 00
Long Birch.....	5 50
Long Beech.....	5 00
Tamarack.....	4 50

Latest mail advices state that during the month of May there was a large consumption of spruce deals and pitch pine lumber; the present prices forcing them into consumption; of the latter 607,000 feet were used. A private sale of spruce deals from St. John, N. B., per steamer, brought £6 7s. 6d. c. i. f., while auction sales averaged about £6 15s. per std. Quebec waney board pine, 2nd class, 17½ inches was being placed at 22½d. to 23d. per foot.

The Quebec Chronicle of June 20th says:—The timber market is extremely quiet and weak, and we only hear of one Ottawa raft having been sold, viz.:—56½ feet average with a small quantity of 19 inch waney board at 22 cents. A drum of good waney, 20 inch, at 33 cents, and some Ottawa ash and elm at 28 to 29 cents. In hardwoods we learn that some sales have been effected, but prices have not transpired.

DEALS.—Pino is very scarce and present prices high; while for spruce, we learn that there is more inquiry at advanced rates.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* of June 10, says:—The wholesale centres at the East—Albany and Oswego—report a fair degree of activity. Lumber is going forward by Erie canal, since the settlement of the rate difficulty at Tonawanda, in large volume. A break in the Chaplain & Hudson canal temporarily stopped supplies from moving through that channel but the difficulty will soon be overcome by repairs. The activity in Albany does not seem to be shared in New England and at New York and vicinity points. At Boston the distributive trade is reported dull. A steady

movement at the East is going on all the time, but the handling of the bulk supplies is slow, and trade anything but rushing. At some interior towns in York state, building is brisk and consumption of lumber large. As a general rule, however, the distributive trade in the eastern states does not appear to be as active as in the Northwest, and even in this section a degree of summer moderation has settled down upon business.

The market during the last three days of last week, and on Monday of this week, was well supplied with cargoes, but since then the offerings have been not so numerous, and somewhat meager in variety. The port list for the week shows 210 arrivals up to Wednesday night; last week the number was 265. The winds have been contrary since Monday, and to-day (Thursday) the market is nearly bare of offerings.

While our quotations of cargo prices are as nearly correct as possible, the bare figures do not indicate the true inwardness of sales. There is great diversity of opinion between buyers about individual cargoes, and some curious transactions take place in consequence.

Quotations are as follows:

Piece stuff, green	\$ 9 00	@ 9 25
Long timber, green	10 00	@ 10 75
Boards and strips—No. 2 green	10 50	@ 12 50
Boards and strips Medium, green	15 00	@ 18 00
No. 1, green	15 00	@ 18 00
High grade	18 00	@ 24 00
Shingles, standard	1 75	@ 2 00
Shingles, extra	2 00	@ 2 30
Shingles, clear		2 30
Shingles, cedar	1 50	@ 2 00
Lath	1 50	@ 1 65

The advance of rates from this city to Missouri river points has had some effect in diminishing shipments to Kansas and Nebraska. Yards that cultivated this trade more than any other, are feeling the effects of the higher rate in a falling off of business. Probably this will be but temporary, as supplies must go forward after a while to keep up assortments. Some of the larger yards are still shipping heavily. There are so many of these in the district that the aggregate daily shipments are large, long trains being constantly pulled out. The smaller dealers have a right to query as to whether the railroads are keeping good faith with them. It is barely possible that the heavier shippers are having a private rate given them that is not much, if any, more than the old 15-cent figure to Missouri river points.

While it is claimed that prices are tending to steadiness, it is acknowledged that there is some cutting of prices when they are made to country customers. Though there is much trouble in competing with northern, central Wisconsin, and middle river points in the Iowa and western trade, yet the most difficult competition to meet is right here among Chicago dealers. Little South Chicago, they say, is beginning to put in its car to stir up the old district, and is issuing price lists that annoy somewhat like those that emanate from Michigan City. Trade is not rushing, and as usual, when shipments are only steady, the merchants are inclined to urge the demand a little. South Chicago has a trade to get, and does some advertising in the way of enticing price lists, no doubt. But after awhile that matter will right itself, and Chicago and South Chicago will journey along together arm-in-arm, as it were.

The local trade is flourishing more than ever. All the dealers speak of it in excellent condition, with a prospect that it will continue through the season, a promise that is justified by the daily issue of building permits; and yet these do not indicate the full amount of lumber being used inside the county, as all the permits published are for structures within the city limits only, showing nothing of what is going on in the suburbs, which is really immense.

A noteworthy feature of this year's Lumber trade is the large quantity of stock that is going directly from the vessel's rail into cars and canal boats. One house mentions this as a peculiar feature of its spring's business, and much greater than in any previous year. The lumber is purchased and shipped mill run, culls out. The saving in expense is doubtless divided between the seller and the buyer, while the latter has the advantage of sorting up his stock to suit his trade. It is likely, too, that this kind of business has been stimulated by lower prices.

Of course it pertains mostly to the territory this side of the Mississippi river.

It mentioned as an incident of trade that thick uppers are proportionately plentier than inch clears, and that prices have a relevancy to this difference in supply.

Inquiry in regard to cedar shingles reveals that one objection to them urged by the wholesale dealers is that generally they are not made of good timber, and are apt to be knotty. Good cedar shingles are made at Pentwater, Mich., that are handled with satisfaction at a number of yards. All agree that the demand for cedar shingles is increasing.

Travelling men and correspondents concur in the generally promising condition of the crops. On this basis all are expecting a heavy demand for lumber later in the season.

The stock on hand in the yards June 1, was 378,330,782, of compared to 280,216,785 on May 1, showing an increase of 80,113,007 for the month. On June 1, 1883, the stock on hand was 327,053,628, so that there was 50,301,154 ft. more lum^{br} in the yards this year on June 1, than there was last year at the same date. But receipts this year by lake, which are mostly pine, were, up to June 1, 309,851,000 as compared to 223,047,000 showing an increase this year over last of 86,604,000 feet. Though there may have been 50,000,000 feet more lumber in stock on June 1 than there was at the same date last year, the excess can be accounted for by the increase of receipts.

Receipts of lumber, shingles, &c., for the week ending June 19, as reported by the Lumberman's Exchange:—

	RECEIPTS.	
	Lumber.	Shingles.
1884.....	61,578,000	30,000 000
1885.....	64,714,000	26,700,000
FROM JANUARY 1, 1884, TO JUNE 19, 1884, INCLUSIVE.		

	RECEIPTS.	
	Lumber.	Shingles.
1884.....	551,740.000	302,149.000
1883.....	457,250.000	328,023.000

Increase.....	92,790,000	
Decrease.....		25,514,000

LAKE RECEIPTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 16.	
Lumber	\$4,840,000
Shingles	28,972,500
Lath	2,414,000
Posts	182,000
Railroad ties	52,111
Wood, cords	840
Bark, cords	118
Slabs, cords	1,840
Telegraph poles	17,220
Spars	

	1884.	1883.	1882.
Lumber & timber.....	378,390,782	377,080,098	372,711,561
Shingles	273,316,025	182,787,642	167,508,869
Lath	34,736,110	40,485,988	21,907,735
Pickets	902,905	1,454,800	1,008,322
Cedar posts.....	203,878	211,883	226,822

Quotations at the yards are as follows :—

Pine, clear, * M.....	\$53 00	\$65 00
Pine, fourths.....	53 00	65 00
Pine, select.....	53 00	65 00
Pine, good box.....	22 00	33 00
Pine, 10-in plank, each.....	80 45	100 45
Pine, 10-in plank, culls, each.....	00 22	00 25
Pine boards, 10-in.....	08 25	10 00
Pine, 10-in boards, culls.....	00 18	00 21
Pine, 10-in boards, 16 ft. * M.....	29 00	32 00
Pine, 13-in boards, 16 ft.....	36 00	39 00
Pine, 12-in boards, 13 ft.....	37 00	39 00
Pine, 13-in siding, select.....	45 00	47 00
Pine, 11-in siding, common.....	16 00	18 00
Pine, 1-in siding, select.....	43 00	45 00
Pine, 1-in siding, common.....	15 00	18 00
Spruce boards, each.....	00 08	00 16
Spruce, plank, 1-in, each.....	00 00	00 30
Spruce, plank, 2-in, each.....	00 00	00 39
Spruce, wall strips, each.....	88 12	00 38
Hemlock, boards, each.....	00 00	00 18
Hemlock, joist, 4x6, each.....	00 00	00 33
Hemlock, joist, 3x4, each.....	00 00	00 14
Hemlock, wall strips, 2x6, each.....	00 30	00 71
Ash, good, * M.....	40 00	43 00
Ash, second quality, * M.....	25 00	30 00
Cherry, good, * M.....	80 00	86 00
Cherry, common, * M.....	25 00	35 00
Oak, good, * M.....	40 00	43 00
Oak, second quality, * M.....	20 00	25 00
Basswood, * M.....	25 00	30 00
Hickory, * M.....	40 00	40 00
Maple, Canada, * M.....	26 00	30 00
Maple, American, per M.....	26 00	30 00
Chestnut, * M.....	38 00	44 00
Shingles, shaved, pine, * M.....	0 00	6 54
" 2nd quality.....	0 00	5 00
" extra, shaved, pine.....	0 00	4 75
" clear.....	0 00	3 25
" cedar, "dried.....	0 00	3 50
" cedar, ".....	0 00	4 00
" hemlock.....	0 00	2 50
Lath, hemlock, * M.....	0 00	2 75
Lath, spruce.....	0 00	3 00

Cotton, Wool and Iron of June 21, says:—
There is a good fair business doing in the supply of stock for dwelling houses in the city, suburbs and vicinity of which a good many are going on. Hemlock lumber fully holds its own.