

**LONDON WOOD STOCKS.**

The following figures show the stock of timber, deals, etc., at the public docks, London, Eng., on the 31st October:

|                                       | 1899.     | 1898.     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Foreign deals, in pieces...           | 1,147,000 | 2,380,000 |
| Battens, in pieces                    | 3,850,000 | 5,289,000 |
| Boards, in pieces                     | 2,373,000 | 1,314,000 |
| Walruscut logs, in pieces             | 638       | 971       |
| Oak timber, in loads                  | 2,89      | 1,823     |
| Fir timber, in loads                  | 2,230     | 2,191     |
| Colonial pine deals and battens, pcs. | 1,513,000 | 1,805,000 |
| Spruce ditto                          | 1,282,000 | 1,813,000 |
| Oak timber, in loads                  | 2,334     | 3,071     |
| Birch timber and planks, in loads     | 3,338     | 4,605     |
| Elm and ash timber, in loads          | 460       | 1,598     |
| White pine timber, in loads           | 703       | 1,386     |
| Red pine timber, in loads             | 18        | 160       |
| United States pitch pine timber, lbs. | 5,907     | 23,013    |
| Pitch pine deals, in pieces           | 81,000    | 113,000   |
| East India teak, in loads             | 10,170    | 11,988    |

Concerning the market, Messrs. Churchill & Sim say:

"Prices have advanced freely in the London wood market during October, as it has become certain that for once the stock wintered here will be barely sufficient for its requirements. The importation has been a small one, and the consumption has continued fairly satisfactory, the falling off of some 5,000 standards in the overside deliveries being directly due to the paucity of arrivals. The deficiency in the dock stocks, as compared with those of last year, amounts now probably to over 37,000 standards, and under existing conditions of freights, etc., it is impossible that this can be made up in any appreciable degree before the close of the season. A short stock in London in the winter is a rarity of late years, and will help the rise in prices for next season, even beyond the extent of its actual significance. This rise is already a fact; buyers are eager to begin fresh purchases, and shippers are in a

difficulty as to how to ask enough for their supplies for 1900. Whatever they ask, in reason, it seems fairly certain they will get, and it behoves buyers, therefore, to bear in mind that a further heavy addition to an already high level of first cost will make wood something of a luxury. The country is involved in an arduous war, which will continue to disturb the freight and the money markets for some time to come, even if no further political complications occur, as it is most probable they will not. It is essentially a time to be careful, to shorten sail, and to buy less rather than more than sufficient for probable requirements, being content to make less money, by the exercise of prudence, if, as seems likely, all continues to go well, rather than to risk the contrary possibility."

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