

package, dealers' prices range accordingly, and range up to \$1.85 per barrel, in cotton bags and \$2.10 in wood, weight in each case 350 pounds. Bags are repurchased at 10 cents each if in good condition, there being four to the barrel; weight of bags, 87½ pounds each, net.

Concrete Blocks.—Prices for concrete blocks vary according to the quality, style, amount of material per block, etc. The following complete list of different size cores for both faced and unfaced blocks gives the prices, f.o.b. Toronto, local conditions regulating the prices to some extent: 8 x 8 x 16-inch blocks, faced, with 4-inch core opening, 22c.; 3-inch core, 23c.; 2-inch core, 24c.; corner or angle blocks, 1c. higher in each size; opening, 20c.; 3-inch core, 21c.; 2-inch core, 22c.; corner blocks same price, the proportions being 1 part cement to 5 parts gravel, and facing 1 part cement to 1½ parts sand.

English and European Cement.—Prices for English and European cements remain fairly constant at \$2.50 per barrel, in wood, per 350 pounds gross.

Lumber.—The following are the quotations for lumber suitable for making forms for concrete per 1,000 feet, f.o.b. shipping points: Hemlock, 2-in. plank, \$16; 2 x 4 scantling, \$12; spruce, good mill culls, 2-in., \$14. For dressing one or two sides the prices will be about \$1.25 in advance of quoted prices, and for dressing and matching about \$1.75.

Sand.—Sharp river sand of best quality, laid down at Toronto, and suitable for concrete work, is quoted at about \$1.35 per cubic yard. The prices vary according to the quality, and range from 95 cents to \$1.35 for other purposes.

Montreal, Feb. 12th, 1909.

Movement in building materials in general may be described as limited. Although considerable construction work is in view and builders and contractors are hopeful of a busy spring season, this has not as yet to any great extent affected the dealers in supplies. The cement market continues dull and prices are still low, with little improvement in sight. While the volume of business being done at present is small for this time of the year, there is a hopeful feeling that the spring months will witness increased activities in the building trade and that better prices will be obtained, although it is doubtful if the price of cement will increase materially for some time yet. The following are local prices:—

Broken Stone.—Crushed stone, one-inch size and over, \$1 per ton, and smaller than one inch, \$1.50 per ton at the quarry, Montreal. For ½-inch silica, gravel or crushed stone for concrete or roofing work, \$2 per ton, Montreal, is quoted.

Canadian and American Cement.—Prices hold practically unchanged at \$1.65 to \$1.75 per barrel, in cotton bags, and \$1.90 to \$2.05 in wood, weights in both cases 350 pounds, in carload lots at Montreal. There are four bags of 87½ pounds each, net, to a barrel, and 10 cents must be added to the above prices for each bag. When in good condition, bags are repurchased at the same figure, 10 cents each. Where paper bags are wanted instead of cotton, the charge is 2½ cents for each, or 10

cents per barrel weight. American cement, standard brands, f.o.b. mills, 85 cents per 380 pounds; bags extra, 10 cents each, and returnable in good condition at 7½ cents each.

Cement Hollow Blocks.—Those measuring 18 inches long by 8 inches high or one square foot, are quoted at 27 to 35 cents per block, the thickness being 8 inches. The cement used is 1:2:5, the face being one of cement and two of sand.

English and European Cement.—English cement is still quoted at \$1.70 to \$1.90 per barrel in jute sacks of 87½ pounds each (including price of sacks), and \$2 to \$2.20 in wood, per 350 pounds gross. Belgian cement is \$1.75 to \$1.85 per barrel, in bags, and \$2.05 to \$2.20 in wood.

Firebrick.—American firebricks sell at from \$40 to \$45 per 1,000, while Scotch and English prices are quoted at \$40 to \$50.

Lime.—Lump lime, \$8 to \$10 per ton, delivered in Montreal. Hydrated lime, \$13 to \$14 per ton, bags extra.

Lumber (for Moulds).—Quotations per 1,000 feet in carload lots, f.o.b. shipping points, at mills in vicinity of Montreal: Hemlock, 2 x 4 scantling, and 2-in. plank, dressed on one side, \$15 to \$18. Spruce, good mill culls, 2-in., tongued and grooved and dressed on one side, \$15 to \$18; rough, \$1 less in each case.

Plaster.—Hard wall plaster, sanded and ready for use, \$7 to \$8.50 per ton, delivered in Montreal; bags extra.

Sand.—Shippers of sand, such as is suitable for mixing with cement and crushed stone, quote \$1.35 per cubic yard, laid down at Montreal. This is for good, sharp river sand, washed and screened. Other qualities of sand used by builders, not suitable for concrete work, may be had as low as 90 cents per cubic yard.

Winnipeg, Feb. 12th, 1909.

The local market has been very dull for the first part of this year, but in all probability it will brighten up from this time forward.

Messrs. John Gunn & Sons, who have the contract for the municipal power plant at Point di Bois, have already this month placed a large order for cement with a Toronto concern for 80,000 barrels of Portland cement. The price quoted in this order is said to be very low, giving small margin, and the dealers in the West are objecting to cement manufacturers selling direct, as it certainly spoils their business.

Cement for some time has been cut very low on the local market, and has been sold for some time back down around \$2 per barrel, although the dealers quote the prices given below.

The building activity in the West this year has already commenced, and already the building permits for the month of February are four times as large as for the total of the whole of February last year.

The Great West Life are to erect a handsome office building, which will be of reinforced concrete construction, and when finished will be a handsome addition to the fireproof buildings in Winnipeg.

(Continued).