

the commercial industries of the United States, and the lumber trade will be among the first to revive.

FOREIGN.

Much attention is now being paid in Great Britain to transactions in connection with next season's business, and varying opinions are held regarding the course which the market will take. The conviction which seems to be most general, and which appears to be borne out by a review of existing conditions, is that if the market is not overburdened with stock by shippers, the consumption and demand next season will be fully equal, if not in excess, of the season now closing. Canadian goods at the present time are only in moderate supply, and the advanced freight rates are checking further shipments to a considerable extent. Some importers who have more than the usual amount of faith in the market are paying the increased freights, but this is the exception rather than the rule. The pine market remains steady, and for some lines there is brisk inquiry. Second pine regulars are moving freely, dry stocks being scarce. A quantity of inferior stock is on the market which will probably be disposed of by auction, but superior class goods are not in too heavy stock. Dealers in birch squares are now placing contracts, and it is probable that a fair portion of the supply will come from Canada, the quality being said to be superior to the Baltic wood. An advance has taken place in spruce in Liverpool, as a result of increased freight and insurance rates. The market is bare of 4-inch spruce deals, and red and pitch pine have been substituted in some cases, at a greater cost. Holders of Quebec goods are not anxious sellers, believing that winter prices will be still higher. At West Hartlepool the demand for mining and square wood is especially in evidence. The consumption of mahogany has increased of late, which it is believed will result in higher values.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

All the drives on the Nashwaak river, in New Brunswick, are now in the booms.

Robert Brewen, of Stanley, N. B., has contracted to cut about 1,000,000 feet of lumber for Mr. Richards.

The bark Minnie G. Whitney carried 1,037,428 ft. of deals and 337,139 ft ends from Parrsboro, N. S., for Fleetwood.

The steamship Mantinea, which sailed last week from St. John, N. B., for the Mersey, carried 1,049 standards of deals.

G. D. McPherson, of Forest, Ont., last week shipped 81,000 feet of elm logs to the Anderson Furniture Co., of Woodstock.

Messrs. Howry & Sons, of Fenelon Falls, will operate three camps this winter. They have 50,000,000 ft. of logs now on hand.

By the breaking of Prescott's boom at Albert, N. B., caused by a freshet, ten thousand dollars worth of logs were carried out to sea.

The Central Lumber Company, of Saginaw, Mich., has commenced logging operations at Blind River, Ont. They expect to put in about 5,000,000 feet.

A decree has been issued from the equity court ordering the sale of 7,000 or 8,000 acres of timber lands on the Taxis river, in New Brunswick, owned by the late Edward Jack. The sale is to satisfy a claim of nearly \$10,000 by the People's Bank of Fredericton against the estate.

FOREIGN.

Cedar shingles are still held at Manistee, Mich., at \$1.60 to \$1.70.

Shingles are in better demand at Buffalo. Haines & Co. report the sale of 2,000,000 last week.

The Brown & Robbins Lumber Co., of Minneapolis, have sold their stock of 5,000,000 feet of white pine, mill run, to eastern parties.

Upwards of 15,000,000 feet of lumber was shipped from Menominee, Mich., last week. A portion of the amount, however, was sold earlier in the season.

Up to the 31st of October last there were shipped from Alpena, Mich., 74,013,075 feet of lumber, 5,020,000 shingles, 2,340,000 pieces of lath and 834,000 pieces of cedar.

A sale of 250,000 deals is reported from Manistee, Mich., the purchasers being the Eastern Lumber Co., of Tonawanda. The price was \$40 for firsts and \$30 for seconds.

Several large shipments of Canadian goods, consigned to Messrs. Holme, Wainwright & Co., Liverpool, Eng., by W. & J. Sharples, of Quebec, are being looked after by Hon. John Sharples, who recently arrived at Liverpool.

The United States government has requested bids for the breakwater extension at Buffalo. Over 16,000,000 feet of white pine will be required for this work. Considerable timber will also be used on the canal improvements.

John Larkins, of Bingham, Mich., reports the sale of 500,000 feet of hardwood to Canadian parties at a figure 50 cents per thousand in advance of the price offered him for the same lumber in Chicago. The stock will be shipped by vessel.

At the last auction sale of Foy, Morgan & Co., London, Eng., a small lot of 3 x 11 Canadian 1st pine, ex Adelgunde, realised £22 10s., 2nds £15 10s., and 3rds £9 15s., and a parcel of 11 ft. 3 x 11 3rd pine, ex Aloedene, from Quebec, made £8 15s., and the 10 ft. 10s. less. A large line of 3x9 2nd spruce, ex Deptford, from Quebec, fell at £7 15s.

BUFFALO AND TONAWANDA.

It is hoped that this is positively the last report to be made during the political campaign. Never in the history of the country has there been a greater disturbance of business created by political agitation, though the presidential struggle is usually reckoned detrimental to trade. The campaign has not been conducted in any very unusual spirit of bitterness, but the chief issue has been made the status of the currency, and with any prospect of a cheapening of the dollar there has been an increased disposition to hold back and see what the result of the election would be.

This has brought the lumber trade nearly to a standstill. The vacation season in the summer months is reckoned the slowest in the trade, but it is a fact that sales of lumber have rather dropped off than otherwise ever since August, till now practically every lumberman in this market will say that he is doing no

business. He does not really expect the statement to be accepted literally, but he is not saying it idly by any means. Buyers are holding off as they never have done with us at this time of the year.

As the supporters of McKinley have taken up the cry for "sound money," they have naturally arrayed all business interests on that side. There is any amount of orders booked by dealers contingent on the election of McKinley. As this state of things makes all business semi-political just now, it is not possible to make a true report without constant reference to the fact, little as business and politics are usually supposed to coincide.

George W. Stevens, who lately came down from Duluth to act as sales agent for the Midland cut of lumber of the Arthur Hill Company, said in an address last week that he had come east to get away from the populism and free silver heresies that prevailed in some parts of the west. The Arthur Hill Company are laying down a large amount of lumber here this season. From the reports of lake receipts it looks as though they had received more than any other concern. They keep one tow running all the season, and lately had several other boats in, including the Parry Sound Lumber Company's steamer Seguin, from which it appears that the latter company is not pushing its own shipments by lake this season.

Buffalo has not received within about 25,000,000 feet of lumber by lake this season of last season's amount to date, the entire lake receipt being 138,000,000 feet. The receipt of 90,000,000 shingles is considerably in excess of last season, and shows that there has been a fairly healthy trade in them this season, which is in line with the running reports from the dealers. The trade in them from both Canada and the Pacific coast has been good and is still fair, though no one appears to have found out why this occurs with such a discouraging state of the lumber trade in general. It is hoped that a good building season is indicated.

Trade with Canada has been somewhat strained by the idea somewhere on that side of the line that there was to be a smash-up here after election. Several dealers state that they have notices from Canada that they must agree to pay for what they buy in gold or Canadian money. Some of them are inclined to laugh at such fears, but others say that if the silver agitation is capable of demoralizing business at home as it has, there ought to be still more uncertainty as to our condition abroad. It is to be hoped that the election will have put an end to such nonsense before this report gets into print.

There is no reason for accusing the lumbermen of contributing to the uncertainty since the "sound money" parade of Saturday, for both Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers turned out and furnished more than a thousand men in the big procession. Never before have they tried to unite on politics.

There is still small need of speaking of the run of prices for anything in lumber. Buyers are making their own prices practically. The eastern buyers are waiting for election, and when our dealers are buyers they look for the producer who is hard up, and they usually find him. One mill reports that certain lumber can be bought for more than \$1.00 off last year's price, when the price was anything but satisfactory to the seller then. Our people are making no predictions of the month's trade. Some think that there will be something of a boom after election if it goes their way, but others are afraid that the season is too far spent, especially as there is talk of closing the canal early in order to get ready for the extraordinary repairs to be made next winter.

There is a better report from the timber dealers than from the trade generally, as there are large public works to be started soon. Besides the local demand, which is good, the new breakwater demands over 16,000,000 feet of hemlock and pine, and the canal improvement will take quite a large amount. None of this has yet been bought. The breakwater bids will be received till the end of the month. As a good timber demand is a still better indication of coming business than can be shown

by a brisk sale of shingles, it would seem that there is hope for the business before long, whatever happens in politics.

The sudden death last month of Secretary Baldy, of the Buffalo Lumber Exchange, leaves the office not only vacant, but hard to fill, as he was a man of a thousand for such a place. So far no one has been suggested who is acceptable. Mr. Baldy had been the secretary of the exchange since its organization.

BUFFALO, NOV. 2, 1896.

J. C.

SHIPPING MATTERS.

Bark Stranger has been fixed to load lumber at St. John, N. B., for Buenos Ayres at \$9.

Sch. Athlete has been chartered to load lumber at Tusket, N. S., for St. Johns, P. R., at \$4.75 and port charges.

The schooner Fred H. Gibson will go to Five Islands, N. S., to load for Buenos Ayres or Rosario, at private terms.

Ship Forest King, now at Barbados, has been chartered to load deals at St. John, N. B., for w. c. England, at 52s. 6d.

The schooner Rebecca F. Landin has been chartered to carry lumber from Bridgewater, N. S., to three ports in Jamaica, at a lump sum.

Schooner James E. Woodhouse has been chartered to load pine at St. John, N. B., for Berbice at \$6.50, with free towage, wharfage and lighterage.

The Government cruiser Petrel, which arrived in Port Stanley recently, brought the news that the schooner Sandill, loaded with lumber for Tonawanda from Wiarton, went down in Lake Erie.

Canal freights at Tonawanda are inclined to advance. The rate from Tonawanda to New York is \$2.25, and difficulty is found in getting boats even at that figure. The figure to Albany, \$1.50, is also likely to be raised.

Several gentlemen from Kingston interested in the timber trade were in Toronto last week looking for vessels to engage in the trade when navigation opens next spring. They chartered the schooner Sir C. T. Van Straubenzie and several of the Mathew's fleet to make several trips from Georgian Bay and Lake Superior to Kingston. The terms of the charters were private, but are understood to be favorable to the vessels. It is rather unusual for lumbermen to be looking for vessels at this season of the year, and this is looked upon as a good business sign. It is expected that some further charters will be made.

BUSINESS NOTES.

J. H. Hann & Co., lumber, McMurrich, Ont., have assigned to J. H. Knifton.

J. W. Hunter, a lumberman of Leamington, Ont., is reported to have assigned, with liabilities of \$10,000, and assets \$3,250.

FIRES.

Two million feet of lumber at Ingalls, Mich., the property of Ira Carley, were burned on Monday last. The loss is \$50,000.

The grist and saw mill at Calumet, Que., was burned on Tuesday of last week. The mill had lately been purchased by Mr. Wilson.

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