

CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

Lumber conditions during the past week, while not entirely satisfactory show evident signs of improvement, with the assurance of a large yield of grain throughout the province. The demand during the past week has been steadily maintained local trade being good, in view of the extensive building operations now proceeding in the larger cities. Comparatively little lumber is being shipped to Great Britain, where the market still continues to be affected by the scarcity of money among the general public. Present shipments to the United States are small, dullness being chief feature of that market, although with the result of the presidential campaign a foregone conclusion and the large curtailments in the output of many industries, exporters are confident of a large increase in the demand towards the fall. Prices continue stationary generally holding to the figures that have ruled since spring. There is, however, a possibility of them taking a rise very soon as a large number of logs cut this year will not reach the mills on account of the excessive floods that have raged in various parts of the country.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The demand for spruce lumber continues fairly active, with dimensions and yard orders holding firmly. Shipments to the United States have been fairly good but there continues to be very little buying for the British market. Hemlock boards are steady at firm prices, while the demand for pine, although the market still continues rather quiet, has increased during the week. New Brunswick cedar shingles have strengthened a little and are now being sold on the basis of \$2.00. Lumber prices continue about the same although it is pleasing to note a lessening in the disposition to cut as reported during the past month.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

With the building season at its height in Manitoba and the North-West Territories the market for B. C. shingles has at last assumed a prosperous condition. The mills, for the first time during the past six months, are being run at their fullest

capacity. Despite a general lull in the building trade in the Eastern and New England States these shingles continue to make headway in that market. Lumbermen are experiencing a fair improvement in the volume of trade, the demand from the North-West being much larger with the partial exhaustion of the surplus stocks of the Washington mills. Foreign shipments continue small, Great Britain being overstocked, while the Australian market has sufficient stocks on hand to supply all demands for the next six months.

UNITED STATES.

But slight change has taken place in the condition of the trade during the week, although a universal cheerful tone seems to be prevalent with the expectation that matters will improve before long. Business has been slightly unsettled in the West on account of the peckers' strike and other labor troubles, although these are partially offset by the decidedly favorable crop weather. There is a strong feeling that the limit has been reached in the way of weakness with the result that many wholesalers are displaying a tendency to hold what stocks they possess rather than dispose of them at less than a fair valuation, or what will produce a fair margin of profit. The hardwood trade continues the improvement of the preceding week, white pine however with the renewed activity in the box trade being considerably ahead of it. The furniture factories are beginning to buy more freely than heretofore, the demand for cyprus, spruce and hemlock being strongly to the front. Prices have been appreciably strengthened by the general curtailment of production both in the south and west, while a marked tendency to stop cutting is noticeable.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The past week has not heralded any improvement in the condition of the trade here, prices having had a tendency to droop. The business done seems to be more or less of a desultory character, but we are convinced that the reluctance to buy is attributable to the quietness of trade and to the absence of speculation among building contractors. The country has evidently not yet recovered from the results of the South African war, the

population having developed extreme caution in their dealings, and until more cash accumulates there is very little likelihood of any improvement. Movements of both pine and spruce are quiet, the low prices of the preceding week being maintained.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

ST. JOHN, N.B., July 30th, 1904.—The short lumber trade, both American and Provincial, is quite brisk. The demand is steady and somewhat sharper than was the case at this time last month.

American slab laths are worth from \$2.15 to \$2.20 per M, f.o.b. St. John. Stocks are low and as there are less being manufactured this year than has been the case for many years, they promise to be even scarcer.

Provincial laths are quite plentiful, and although none of the manufacturers are carrying heavy stocks, the chances are that that there will be no scarcity unless an unlooked for demand arises. They can be disposed of at from \$1.85 to 1.95 per M. The weekly output of laths in St. John City alone is in the vicinity of 3,000,000. As some of the American mill-owners are sawing provincial logs, only about 800,000 American laths will be manufactured per week for the balance of the season.

Shipments of laths during June were rather light and for July mediumly heavy. According to all indications all receipts were absorbed by the markets in the New England States which showed no slackness in demand in consequence. The prospects unquestionably lead to the conclusion that laths will be higher but it is probable that the change will not take place before mid-Autumn. Inquiries during the last month have been more frequent and it is a well known fact that few dealers in the New England States have any quantity of any consequence in stock, but they will probably continue in this way until after the election.

Cedar shingles: There is little change in this line. Low grades are selling locally as fast as they can be produced and very few are left for export.

In Boston and vicinity trade is only moderately brisk. Lower prices are the

rule this year in shingles as in other lines. It is hard to make any forecast, but the outlook for any immediate rise in prices is not very bright. The feeling among the manufacturers and dealers in this vicinity is that the price has not touched the lowest point, but that it will be two months at least before anything more favourable to them can be expected.

American cedar shingles are worth, f.o.b. St. John: Extras, \$2.90; clear, \$2.45; and clears, \$1.90; No. 1's, .95.

Stocks are very low except in extras and these are not sufficiently heavy to cause their owners any anxiety.

Freight rates to Boston on shingles are quoted freely at 22-1/2 cents per M, and to New York on laths at 65 cents per M.

BROKER HANDLES.

If an enterprising man with supplies of cheap Spruce, Basswood or Poplar care to put in several machines to work broom handles we can take his output. Write in first instance to Empire, care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.

CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

From Montreal: Steamer Manchester Trader, for Manchester, Eng., 2,919 pcs. deals and boards by R. Cox & Co.; 2,149 pcs. boards, 2,761 pcs. deals, by Charlemagne Lumber Co. Steamer Manhattan, for Avonmouth via Liverpool, 1,048 pcs. deals, 3,326 pcs. boards, 494 pcs. deals, 611 pcs. boards, 916 pcs. deals, 844 pcs. deals, 614 pcs. deals and ends, 1,004 pcs. deals, by Watson & Todd. Steamer Mount Royal for Liverpool, 925 pcs. lumber, by McLaurin Bros.; 4,726 pcs. lumber, by Watson & Todd; 10,109 pcs. lumber, 4,315 floors, by Canadian Pacific Railway, Steamer Oxonian, for London, 2,381 pcs. deals, 251 pcs. birch lumber, by McArthur Export Co. Steamer Vancouver, for Liverpool, 1,259 pcs. deals, 3,495 pcs.

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