

stock is considerably increased, and values have declined.

Pitch Pine.—The arrivals have been nine vessels, 9,650 tons register, against five vessels, 7,119 tons register, during the like period last year; the import has been heavy, and, in spite of a good consumption, stocks have accumulated.

United States Staves.—Imports have been moderate; the demand has improved somewhat; there is no change in value to report.

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Oregon and British Columbian Pine.—Oregon pine has not been imported, there has been a moderate consumption, and the stock is not excessive.

Baltic and European Woods.—The arrivals during the past month have been twenty vessels, 10,488 tons, against nineteen vessels, 12,797 tons, during the like period last year. Fir timber has not been imported; there is a very small demand, and the stock is sufficient. **Flooring Boards.**—The import has been moderate, but the consumption disappointing; the stock is ample.

THE BRITISH CENSUS.

Some British census estimates were issued on 5th May. But these are too vague to tell the growth of or loss in rural population. The displacement of agricultural industry, and the overcrowding of the factory towns are the chief factors in the great social problems.

The figures given for the population of London in the metropolitan district, embraced by the county council, show an increase of only 7 per cent, during the decade, against 37 per cent. for New York, 54 per cent. for Chicago, and 23 per cent. for Philadelphia. The estimate of 4,536,034 people for the metropolis does not include what is known as "Greater London," where the percentages of increase are without doubt much higher.

A significant feature of the census returns issued is that towns of the second and even the third magnitude such as Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, and Sunderland, are growing faster relatively than London. This is explained by the magnetism of manufacturing life and high wages. Only three out of sixty-seven provincial towns have failed to increase.

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