

LUMBER TRADE.

BRITISH MARKETS.

(Timber Trades Journal.)

At Messrs. Churchill & Sims' sale on Monday were fairly maintained... The first lot offered, some 8000 4th quality stuff (2x9), was secured by the feeblest bidder, who has his hands pretty full of business just now, at £9 10s, and a small parcel of Sandarne 3rds, that came next, and no difficulty in realizing £11. The room was crowded, the chief attraction being the (2x6) parcel alluded to, which, offered without reserve, fetched £10 10s for 3 and 4x11 in, and £16 and 2s 15s for 3 and 4x9, inked quality, and 10M meeting with a ready sale at £12 8s (about the price Petersburg lots were fetching two months ago), while 4th quality sold at £9 6s, and £9 10s; but £10s 10s to £1 lower—not bad prices to obtain from the provincial reports...

of 19 tons that the goods fetched a fair market value. It was compared the values obtained in July, two years ago, with those realized on Thursday we have reasons to congratulate ourselves on the high quality, of which the bulk of the present season's stock consist, have now secured in the market. At the period referred to, the regulars of the quality named seldom fetched 2s 10s unscreed, and a fair average price at that time was 2s per Petersburg standard, for goods which are now saleable at 2 10s, and some that even higher prices is also made low. In July, 1877, they were much on a par with those of pine, and seem to be stationary from that day to this at prices varying from 4s 15s to 4s 15s, if we except the extraordinary fluctuations at the late back end, when the values went up as high as 4s 15s.

The bulk of Thursday's sale was confined to Canadian goods, most of which were unreserved, some 1000 standards in all were sold, equal to about 15 good sized Atlantic cargoes. A general relief appears to be felt that these goods are at length cleared off, and, without questioning the wisdom of pushing sales of stocks of this kind, which are necessarily confined to a limited number of buyers apart from the general building trade, we dare say they will go into consumption on quite as favourable terms as if they had been disposed of outside the sale room.

Liverpool. The arrivals of timber laden vessels continue moderate, as will be seen from the list of imports in another column, and this fact, in conjunction with the continued demand existing for the supply of spruce deals and other North American timber, has given a somewhat stronger tone to our market, though it has not yet shown its material effect in any improvement in prices. For the present it may be said to have stopped any further downward tendency in quotations, but the trade is in a very sensitive condition, and is liable yet to a further drop, if goods are unduly forced upon it.

Advice from Quebec state that high prices are still demanded by the lumbermen for nearly all kinds of timber, and that they are firm at their quotations, owing to the great want existing in the United States, where they are finding a much better market than they can obtain from the merchants engaged in the export trade to this country. The trade in Quebec continues dull, and freights are low, several large vessels being in port seeking employment, and should this state of things continue for a few months longer, and our shipments be correspondingly curtailed, an opportunity will be afforded to work down the present stocks to a moderate compass, and enable our merchants and consumers again to place themselves in a healthy and sound position for the future.

BRITISH TRADE NOTES. (Timber Trades Journal.) The arrivals for the week ending the 13th are unimportant as compared with what was doing in this respect last July. They amount to 8 cargoes from Sweden, 6 from Quebec, 7 from the Russian and the Finnish ports, 4 from Norway, 8 from the United States, with three from the British possessions, which nearly completes the list. Out of these, there was only one cargo of deals from Gelle, one each from Sandarne and Swartwik, and 2 flooring cargoes from Norway. The rest of the arrivals bringing timber, lathwood, firewood, staves, and a host of other sundries to supply the gaps caused by the long drain on them during the dead season. The limited proportions to which the Swedish imports are still confined in some measure helps to account for the exceptionally high prices for the Korsnas parcel fetched in Wednesday's sale.

We notice amongst the recent arrivals a cargo of deals, etc. ex Mary K. Campbell, from Weymouth, U.S. It is such a long time since our American consuls shipped deals to this country that we had almost forgotten it. Perhaps they are going to revive the trade again? The dock deliveries continue favourable, but they do not stride away from last year's figures by the 1,000 standards or so at a bound as they did awhile ago. The excess of this last week over that of same date last year, sawn and hewn, is something over 400 standards. There were 1,200 loads more timber delivered in the parallel week of last year, but of deals and flooring some 800 standards less. The business is, however, still active at the docks. They probably care more there now to get stock in than to see it so largely going out. Amongst the parcels submitted at Messrs. Churchill & Sims' sale at the "Baltic" on Thursday last we may mention some Danish pitch pine planks, ex Solo, that were held at £11 10s, as well as some Pensacola, 4, 6 and 8 in., ex Australia, described as prime, that remained in the brokers' hands, there being no one in the room to advance on £12 15s, the price at which they were put up at. 3 in. of this parcel also failed to find a purchaser at £11 15s. Timber was offered in considerable quantities both from Dantzic and Bremen, as well as about 400 pieces of swan pine from Pensacola. The latter was put in at 6s 6d, but the broker ran through the several lots rapidly, as if aware that buyers of this sort of stuff were not represented in the room. The Dantzic fare no better. For best middling full size the quoted price was 4s 6d, under 10 in., 5s 6d; good mid-

dle, 6s 6d, and—improving—4s 6d to 7s 6d according to lengths, under 10 in., containing a few pieces between 28 in. and 40 ft long, of the quality last named, was put in at 4s 6d without meeting with a buyer. A parcel of Baltic ex Ferns, of somewhat better lengths, good middling quality was quoted as high as 7s 6d, with a like result. The highest quotation, however, was for a couple of lots of Dantzic ex Maria, which were put in at 8s 6d, a tall price for fir. The quality was best middling, and there was nothing extraordinary in the lengths to account for the apparently high appreciation somebody held them in. 177 pieces of beautiful pitch pine timber, ex Benjamin Bangs were also offered without eliciting a single bid; in fact, ere the last page of the catalogue was reached, the room was on the move, and the proceedings virtually over.

We should think a sale of log timber, solely might be held say once a month or so, with more advantage than putting them up at the fog end or a deal sale. Dull at all times, wood of this description meets with but sorry treatment when those who have set the proceedings out are anxious to get back to their business, who, unless really in the market for some special parcel of the kind, are unlikely to buy on mere speculation in a hurried fashion. Possibly, if these goods did not figure in each sale, some buyers would be disappointed, while there is always the off chance of selling an odd lot or two, but placed in the middle of the catalogue would ensure the room sitting out the proceedings, and afford the broker an opportunity of doing justice to goods of this kind that were put in his hands.

Although timber freights are perhaps lower than they have been at any time during the last ten years, there is but a limited amount of ship room being offered. The circumstance is possibly to be accounted for by the fact that many shipowners are inclined rather to lay up their vessels than to close at the ruling freight terms.

We understand a couple of large steamers have been chartered for deals, from Roderhamia to London at 30s. per standard hundred. This is the lowest rate that has been accepted this year from the Gulf of Bothnia.

Business in the south of Norway is at present reported quiet, on account of the low prices ruling in England. At Grimsstad there is a small stock of pitch pine, but several hundred standards of deals and boards. There are a good many parcels of redwood deals and lathens classed as inferior 6ths in the market. The extended classification defined by the word inferior has not, however, in all cases, been handed to the country buyers, and by reason of this omission some perplexity has been caused to importers, who have not found it profitable to enter into contracts with their country customers to supply them with 6ths redwood "to arrive" at £7 5s. per standard. If a new quality is to be created, it is better that the term 6th quality should be adopted, rather than that the misleading and undefinable one inferior 6ths should become general. The new departure will then open out the possibility of shippers sending forward shipments of inferior 6ths. The shipment of such a quality would not now be accounted a more remarkable circumstance than would have been that of inferior 6th less than twenty years ago. Such a prospect is far from being a subject of congratulation.

The annual meeting of the Swedish Society of Saw Mill Owners is announced to be held this day at Herneöand. It is expected that some interesting particulars as to the future supplies will be forthcoming; we have accordingly arranged to have a telegraphic summary of the proceedings for our next week's paper. By latest advices from Quebec it is understood that the cutting of the Three Rivers stock for the present season has been sold. The prices have not transpired, but we have reason to believe that they were at full current quotations. Spruce on the spot is also improving, and manufacturers of both pine and spruce in a general way have advanced their prices, and confidently expect to obtain them.

Some parcels of spruce deals (mixed sizes) have been retailed from Liverpool at £0 7s 6d. The reduction in the price of spruce to this low figure does not appear to have been unnecessary, and already it is said that the market for spruce deals assumed a firmer aspect. It is no great length of time since it was the custom of merchants at Liverpool, when measuring spruce deals, to make allowances for defective wood. It may, however, be now noted as being one of the "new order of things," that the practice has died out of existence. The system of given over measure was always a perplexing one, inasmuch as its value was regulated solely by the generosity of the selling merchant. The more modern plan of regulating the value of defective parcels of wood by proportionate reduction of price appears to be a far more consistent method, and one which is better adapted to the convenience of business men.

Oak staves are still firm in the market, with every prospect of continuing so. The stocks here are in a few hands, and though the spring shipments have been up to the average, there is no more than sufficient to meet the demand if fairly handled. We learn from our French contemporary, L'Echo Forestier that the export of oak staves from Tilcosto will this year

be rather less than it was last, on account of the persistence with which the proprietors of the forests hold their wood at prices too high in proportion to the ruling prices of staves in France. The consequence that exporters consider that they are a thing wisely in leaving their purchases, or even in abstaining from buying altogether.

One of the large Grimsby houses has issued a circular inviting the attendance of country buyers to their yards, for the purpose of clearing out old or last year's stock.

Lumber shippers in Ottawa have been notified by their agents in New York that commencing on the 25th inst., no large carrying lumber in bond from Canada to New York through the Champlain canal will be allowed to lighten her cargo at Whitehall, or break bulk after bonds are given at House's Point. Although not strictly in accordance with the customs laws of the United States, it has been customary heretofore to ship bonded lumber from this side by Canadian barges to Whitehall, transhipping it there by American boats to New York, while American boats loading in Ottawa have been in the habit of taking what is called a double load, and lightening at Whitehall through the Champlain canal, both of which customs, by recent order, are prohibited. With few exceptions Canadian barges have been withdrawn from this trade, owing to the large number of American barges employed; consequently the new order will only operate against the American barge owners as well as the exporters in New York. Last year about 225 American boats, representing a capital of fully \$500,000, found profitable employment in this trade, only some five million feet, employing forty vessels, being carried in Canadian bottoms. The average double load of an American barge is about one hundred and fifty thousand feet of lumber, while what is supposed to be her canal load is only about one hundred and twenty thousand, a difference of 30,000 feet. What is meant by the double load is the full cargo taken from here, which is afterward lightened at Whitehall to enable the boat to proceed to New York with balance of cargo through Champlain canal. The new regulation will now prevent a barge taking on board a larger cargo than she can carry through the Champlain canal, and, as a consequence, the barge owner will sustain an average loss of fully \$60 on each trip unless freights advance, when the exporter in New York must suffer. The new order, of course, only applies to bonded cargoes, yet, as fully one-half of the lumber shipped from here to New York is for export from that market, it is shipped in bond and consequently this

order must bear heavily on some one. Freights are now ruling at \$1.25 per 1,000 feet from Ottawa to New York. No advance in rates has as yet been talked of, although in conversation with several of the heaviest shippers to-day, it was said that freights must advance to meet the loss which large owners would otherwise suffer. According to the estimate of one of the American barge owners, who is here, the Champlain canal would require to be deepened one foot to make the draft uniform with other Canadian waters through which the boats have to pass, the increasing traffic would appear to justify this undertaking.

METAL & RUBBER STAMPS Kenyon-Stewart Mfg. Co. Manufacturers of the largest variety of Printing, Office, Railway and Business Stamps, Seals, etc., in Canada. Awarded Bronze Medal at Toronto Industrial Exhibition, 1900. Office and Manufactory: 36 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO. (21-13)

NAPANEE BLANKET MILLS Special to the Trade: Constantly on hand WHITE BLANKETS, SHANTY BLANKETS, HORSE BLANKETS ETC. ETC., ETC. HAVING SPECIAL FACILITIES For the manufacture of Every Description of Blanket. I am prepared to offer at a VERY LOW FIGURE. Arthur Toomey, NAPANEE.

Excelsior Organs. Acknowledged to be the most serviceable Organ in the market. ALL HONORS TAKEN WHEREVER SHOWN SEND FOR NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE AND PRICE LISTS. DANIEL BELL, SONS & Co. Manufacturers to the Trade, 56 to 64 Bolton St., Toronto. P.S.—NO BRANCH FACTORY AT GUELPH OR ELSEWHERE. (20-33)

CANADA Marbleized Slate Works HAMILTON, ONT. MARBLE AND MARBLEIZED SLATE MANTELS. J. M. DURWARD Successor to R. Hauger. R. H. Smith & Co. (Successors to J. FLINT) Sole Manufacturers in the Dominion of Canada of the 'SIMONDS' SAWS ST. CATHARINES, ONT. Sole Manufacturers of the genuine HANLEY IMPROVED DIAMOND IMPROVED CHAMPION and the NEW IMPROVED CHAMPION CROSS-CUT SAWS. We also make all other kinds of Cross-Cut Saws. Hand Saws from the cheapest to the very best. THE LARGEST SAW WORKS IN CANADA