

**NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.**

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

ST. JOHN, N. B., April 5th, 1904.—At present writing the outlook for English deals is ruled by the same uncertainty that has characterized the market for some months past. Although there seems to be an indifference on the part of the larger buyers, the demand is increasing as rapidly as could reasonably be expected considering the lateness of the spring. The manufacturers and dealers in these parts are sanguine of a firmer price and a still greater demand and are betraying no anxiety as to the future. They seem willing to await developments rather than make any further concessions in price. The tardiness of the warm weather will make the sawing season of this year at least a month shorter than usual along the North Shore and the Miramichi River.

Along the St. John River, owing to the above condition and also to the inability of the manufacturers to obtain their logs before mid-June, the season will be at least two months shorter than was the case last year.

While it is impossible to make any forecast in regard to price with any certainty of being correct, it is safe to say that an ordinary specification should be worth from \$12.50 to \$13.00 per M. l.o.b. steamer; two-thirds price for fourths and ends.

Stocks are very low and the lots now going forward will practically clean up everything in sight. These lots are chiefly the remains of last season's output. It is estimated that the total manufacture of deals in New Brunswick will be from 10 to 15 per cent. less than last year. This is figured on the supposition that the

steam drivers meet with no difficulty in bringing out their logs, but if, owing to an unfavorable freshet, such an emergency should arise and the logs be hung up to any great extent, thus causing a scarcity, the season's cut will be still further curtailed. As it is at present, it is impossible to say what the prospects are for a good driving season. The rivers are still frozen solid, the snow in the woods is not melting at all, and it will be some weeks before the indications will begin to show themselves.

The Brunette Sawmill Co., of New Westminster, B. C., will supply dimension timbers for repair of locks in the Rideau canal.

The British Columbia Government has placed an order with the Brunette Sawmill Company, of New Westminster, B. C., for

150,000 feet of timber for wharf construction.

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