

BRITAIN'S IMPORTS OF TIMBER AND LUMBER.

An interesting table of the distribution of wood imports among the various ports of the United Kingdom finds place in the issue for March 11th of The Timber Trades Journal, of London. A remarkable issue it is (the 26th Annual Special), containing 133 pages of illustrated letter press, and more than 100 pages of an advertising supplement.

In the calendar year 1897 the quantity imported at 118 ports was 7,028,242 loads sawn lumber and 2,817,846 loads hewn timber, making a total of 9,908,189 loads. In 1898 the quantity of sawn was 6,359,828 loads, and of hewn 2,817,846; total 8,695,130. There was thus a decline last year as compared with the year preceding of about 12 per cent. The only considerable ports which show an exception to the decline are Manchester, South Shields and Aberdeen. The list contains 73 ports in England and Wales; 29 in Scotland and 16 in Ireland. We give the figures for some twenty principal ports:

	1897—Loads.	1898—Loads.
London	2,038,863	2,008,704
Cardiff	889,703	586,850
Liverpool	812,036	691,605
Hull	808,684	757,111
Hartlepool (West)	499,652	382,781
Grimsby	396,377	343,547
Newport, Mon.	286,548	175,835
Belfast	242,928	139,915
Glasgow	232,262	212,826
Gloucester	221,492	167,577
Grangemouth	194,224	176,757
Manchester	186,424	194,390
Sunderland	167,954	138,996
Bristol	167,382	138,439
Leith	155,445	147,782
Berrowstounness	131,054	123,324
Greenock	128,508	107,229
Fleetwood	125,135	68,268
Shields (South)	116,671	149,350
Dublin	111,970	73,791
Plymouth	100,554	93,607
Alloa	94,222	89,180
Swansea	93,127	91,877
Newcastle	81,940	68,890
Southampton	90,734	87,382
Aberdeen	78,124	70,353

SOME LUMBER AND TIMBER NEWS.

A recent visitor to England, Mr. William Power of the Quebec firm of John Sharples & Co., which firm ships largely abroad, tells The Montreal Gazette about the state of the market just now in Great Britain. He declares it to be in very good shape, and adds that the export from the St. Lawrence will be equal in volume to last year. The competing countries with Canada, amongst others, are Russia, Norway and Sweden, yet Canada will hold her own. Mr. Power says he has always maintained that in view of the great demand for pulp wood in Europe, the Canadian spruce forests will be in great demand, and he advocates an export duty. France and Germany will soon become extensive buyers in the Canadian market, as prices are now high in Norway and Sweden, and the Government of that country has been obliged to impose restrictions, all of which will tend to stimulate the demand upon Canada's unlimited domain. Mr. Power also referred to the uses to which Canadian timber is put in England, saying that while cargo boats required very little wood-work, the passenger boats take a great deal.

According to a Fredericton despatch of last week, referring to lumbering operations on the head waters of the River St. John, in New Brunswick, the several operators have about finished cutting and yarding and are waiting for driving to commence. There is from four to five feet of snow in the woods, which is favorable to steam driving unless it goes off too rapidly. Mr. Kilburn and another well-informed lumberman have compiled an estimate of the cut on the Upper St. John this season, and they estimate that the total cut will be ninety

to one hundred million, as compared with 134,000,000 feet last year. This is a larger estimate than we have seen made of the cut by another authority.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Trade in butter and cheese is in some respects in an interesting position. A year ago the price of butter was comparatively high while that of cheese was low; at present this state of affairs is reversed. Local buyers who, hoping to profit by last year's experiences, have stored away butter for the March-April trade are disappointed and must fear some losses. Choice dairy rolls bring at the best 14½ or 15 cents per pound. Creamery butter in sympathy is also weaker and the local quotation ranges from 19½ to 20½ cents per pound with well established brands bringing slightly more. The receipts of Canadian butter in the United Kingdom are not large, amounting since January to only 4,548 cwt. Shipments from Montreal since the close of navigation are heavier for 1898-99 than a year previous, amounting in the former period to 65,163 packages against 39,341 packages in the same period the previous year.

Cheese in marked contrast to butter is relatively much higher than a year ago. In the first week of April, 1898, cheese was sold in Toronto at 7½ cents per pound, while at present sales are being made at 11 and 11¼ cents per pound. It is a curious and significant fact that the cheese sold in the spring of 1898 was bought at about 9½ cents per pound, while present marketings were bought at a range of 8 to 8½ cents per pound. Cheese is very firm in Great Britain. London advices of March 24th say: "Virtually no more Canadian or States cheese will be received in the United Kingdom until the new season's make arrives in May. The stocks in the hands of retailers are nearly exhausted, and as they cannot wait for supplies of the new season's goods, present holders of cheese have the ball in their own hand. The small lots of New Zealand coming forward will consequently meet a very good market. New Zealand cheese shippers last year suffered heavily, and by not shipping this season they have thrown away the chance of recovering their losses. The only sound export policy is to ship regularly year by year, through good seasons and bad. Any attempt to dodge low prices in the hopes of finding good ones generally ends in failure as it has this season. Prices for 'finest' Canadian 53s. to 54s."

WHAT THE DRY GOODS TRADE IS DOING.

Although the weather during the past few weeks has been suggestive of anything but spring, the retail dry goods houses have been working away with light summer fabrics and other requisites for the coming season. They have had good success, but doubtless their Easter sales would have been largely increased had the weather been more favorable. In Montreal the streets were covered with snow and ice, and in Toronto there were cold, bleak winds; neither of these conditions is conducive to good Easter shopping. However, spring millinery, gloves and similar supplies were in good request, while ladies' tailors had their shops filled with work. It is almost a general opinion that shoppers are taking a better quality of goods this year than for the past several years, and are willing to pay a fair price for a fair article.

What milliners are doing abroad is always of interest to the Canadian trade. The Draper's Record of London, England, in a recent issue says: Toques are of many shapes, but the wide, square effect is most in favor. Some are turned back from the face with large feathers and many flowers, others are lifted at the side, and filled in there with the plumes and flowers. Tinted foliage is a feature of this season's millinery, and the tall wheel-rose mounts are among the novelties. So natural are the roses, that on many the leaves are made slightly pierced, or shrivelled, as if eaten by an insect, or scorched by the sun. Quills are finished with cream lace, or braid appliqued motifs, and sometimes are spangled as well. Jetted wings are frequently further ornamented by ribbon or gauze ruching bordering them, and forming a lover's knot at the top of the wing, this knot being more in favor than ever in designs for trimming everything. In the fancy straw toques, the straw is turned back and draped in multitudinous ways; and such toques may be said to