

CANADA LUMBERMAN

WEEKLY EDITION

The Lumberman Monthly Edition, 20 pages) \$1.00 PER YEAR (The Lumberman Weekly Edition, every Wednesday

OL. I.

TORONTO, ONT., JULY 10, 1895

No. 27.

CANADA LUMBERMAN

PUBLISHED BY

C. H. MORTIMER

Federation Life Building - TORONTO.

Branch Office:

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING,
MONTREAL.

Weekly Lumberman, published every Wednesday, contains reliable and up-to-date market conditions and prices in the principal manufacturing districts and log domestic and foreign wholesale markets. A daily medium of information and communication between Canadian timber and lumber manufacturers, and buyers and the purchasers of lumber products at home and abroad.

Lumberman, Monthly. A 28-page journal, discussing fully and impartially subjects pertinent to the paper and wood-working industries. Contains interviews with prominent members of the trade, and character sketches and portraits of leading lumbermen. Special articles on technical and mechanical subjects especially valuable to saw mill and planing mill men manufacturers of lumber products.

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CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

THE first week of the second half of the year has opened with a marked drop in lumber sales. Enquiries from the United States have fallen off largely, whilst home trade is slow. Various explanations are given for this change in the situation, principal of which is the continued dry spell, which is operating against the success of the lumber trade in several ways. It is proving a damper to manufacturers and others who had been looking forward to a good harvest. Operations in many sections have been stayed on this account. Low water in the streams is also retarding the drives and is causing anxiety. Travellers on the road experience great difficulty in making sales, and where there is a possibility of business being done, as someone has said, there are a dozen travellers looking after the order. What the outcome will be later in the year it is hard to say, and in the meantime lumbermen seem to have made up their minds to quietly rest on their oars, ready to do any business that comes along, but not looking for much activity until the dead of summer, at least, has passed. In some sections the piling grounds are uncomfortably crowded, and with the new cut coming along the condition gives mill men some concern. Where conditions of this character are perhaps most harmful is in the case of lumbermen, who are not over strong financially and to keep things moving must bring down prices, which has the effect of injuring the trade generally. Fortunately the men who are holding the heaviest stocks are strong financially, and with full confidence in the lumber situation, they prefer to hold on to stocks rather than sacrifice prices.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

No change in the situation is reported from Quebec. Shippers at that point are still busy sending forth supplies to the British market, hoping that trade will take such shape there that it will leave some reasonable profit to them. In New Brunswick the local exports to British ports in the eight days ending Saturday amounted to over 12,000,000 feet. Shipments to the States vary some from week to week, but on the whole are running into good figures. The writer had a conversation a few days since with Mr. Campbell, of the Muskoka Mill & Lumber Co., who has just returned from a visit to the Maritime

Provinces where his firm have large timber holdings. His report is that trade there this season has shown a decided revival and lumbermen appreciate more than they ever did before, the development that is taking place in the lumber trade of these provinces. The spruce trade, he reports, as active, and shipments of lumber to the United States this season have been a very encouraging feature of business.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The destruction by fire of the Brunette saw mills, at New Westminster, will create a large blank for the present, in the lumber trade of the coast. This concern are large exporters to the United States and foreign points, and also did a considerable domestic trade. To keep up with orders they have lately been running day and night. The reports generally from British Columbia tell of continued activity in the lumber trade, with the comment so frequently made that prices are not leveling up as they ought to do. In Manitoba, the Winnipeg Commercial says, there is a fair demand for lumber and building material for the city trade and some big orders have been taken from grain companies who are building elevators. The Winnipeg and Brandon mills have received their log drives and will commence cutting at once. About 6,000,000 feet of timber arrived within the week down the Red river, which is said to be the largest drive ever brought down the Red. The price cutting, that has been an unhealthy feature in the lumber trade of Brandon, seems to have been patched up for the present, though how long this will remain is doubtful.

UNITED STATES.

The belief that a substantial improvement in lumber must eventually show itself does not lose ground. But so far as the situation at the present time is concerned, there is not much evidence of this improvement. Trade in the month of June, whilst it opened fairly, tapered off as the month closed, to small dimensions, and July has been entered into with an unusual degree of quietude prevailing. This is not altogether unexpected as being a busy time with farmers, so far as trade comes from that source, much business is seldom done. The uncertainty of the crop outcome is also proving prejudicial to that upward step in lumber that has been expected. At present the outlook for the coming harvest is not the brightest. In some States the crops are suffering greatly for want of rain. One step, however, that is hopeful of better conditions shortly is the action of the manufacturers of white pine in the Mississippi and Wisconsin districts in raising

lumber fifty cents to commence this month. There has been much need for this advance, for lumber has been sold in these territories at ridiculous prices. This determination on the part of manufacturers, nevertheless, shows that they believe the situation will warrant a firm stand. It is hoped by students of the situation that August entered into a revival, which will gather force as the fall season draws nigh, will be manifest.

FOREIGN.

Reports of the lumber business from the United Kingdom, though usually written in a doleful turn, have yet rays of sunshine from time to time. A late report from London is that the view is shared by many of the principle dealers that a more profitable season is not far distant. Shippers and exporters ideas of free-on-board prices are now almost identical, says Timber, and this fact creates a greater confidence in operating for forward delivery. At Liverpool, trade is hardly reaching the point expected at this time of the year, and yet a considerable amount of stock is going into consumption. The arrivals of timber laden ships are not yet particularly heavy, though a number of cargoes are reaching that point from Quebec. Domestic building trade is said to be quite brisk. Of trade in Glasgow, Timber says. "Taking a general view of things, reports are not as one could wish them to be. Of course, it is now getting near to what is generally a dull time, so far as wholesale business is concerned, but the season just coming to an end has been disappointing, the supply of the new cut having been largely in excess of the demand. There has been no disposition to do business in the new arrivals except for what may be required for immediate use. It is cheering to note that those engaged in the ship-building industry are beginning to take a more hopeful view of trade. Some of the yards are getting very busy with plenty of work before them for the rest of the year. Others again are not so well off. There are further signs of an extensive revival, which will result in a change for the better in the timber trade." It is thought that the spring import of Canadian timber will be very moderate, which may result in speculative buying at any time.

HARDWOODS.

With increased building and manufacturing in many parts of the States there is a better demand for hardwoods than for pine. The least activity in manufacturing is shown in furniture, which is a branch of trade that is somewhat quiet. "But stocks," says Hardwood, "at factories are low and broken, and what