

falling off in demand owing to bad weather, but notwithstanding this fact, the higher grades are being steadily advanced in price, while an improved demand recently for the coarser grades has caused a stiffening in the prices for this class of lumber also. The spruce situation is practically unchanged except that orders are a little less plentiful, and here and there price concessions are made. It is now admitted that the available supply of hardwood lumber is less than was generally believed, and consequently the tone of the market is a little better. The total consumption during the year has been fairly large, while the depression earlier in the season discouraged production. White ash is rather heavy and seems likely to sell at a lower price.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

The import season for this year is now closed, and for that reason considerable interest is attached to the Board of Trade returns. These show that the total import of sawn and hewn timber to Great Britain for the eleven months of this year was 8,518,545 loads, and for the same period last year 9,237,243 loads, a difference of 718,698 loads. Although the import was not much lighter than last year, the stocks in the public docks at London on November 30th showed a decrease of 4,000,000 pieces as compared with the same date one year ago. Thus, through a period of depression the consumption appears to have more than kept pace with the importation, and it is only reasonable to expect an expansion of the timber trade next year. An unfavorable factor is the slight business depression prevailing at the present time throughout most of the countries of Europe. Timber importers have as yet bought very sparingly for next year's requirements. They are showing little disposition to conclude contracts immediately, probably for the reason that an opinion prevails that the prices which shippers are asking are unreasonably high. A meeting of

the Importers Section of the Timber Trade Federation was held in London last week to ascertain whether it was not possible to collectively oppose the high prices which it is stated shippers intend asking for next year. The result of this meeting has not been learned. Prices for good quality deals and battens are firm, but for inferior qualities there is very little demand. A cargo of St. John spruce just to hand has been placed to Bristol for Farnworth & Jardine at £7 15s c.i.f. As the cargo contained 60 per cent. of 7 and 8 inch, the price is considered very fair. At recent auction sales in London two lots of first quality 3 x 9 Canadian spruce brought £12 10 and £12 15s, and the 9-11 feet sold at £11 15s.

**NEW BRUNSWICK CEDAR SHINGLES.**

The market for extras and clears in cedar shingles is very strong. Retailers are generally lightly stocked and the makers are practically all cleaned out of the above grades. In addition to the firm outlook as indicated by the above, it is current trade gossip that certain of the commission houses are quite heavily sold ahead—in other words, that they have taken orders during the last two months for more shingles than their sources of supply could furnish. These orders were generally taken at 15c. to 25c. per thousand less than the present market prices, and the holders of these orders are now beginning to fear that they will be obliged to pay present full quotations in order to place the business. This fear, we believe, is well founded, as the manufacturers seem now to realize the full strength of their position and are unlikely to let down their prices simply to help their commission friends. The winter's production will be no more than normal, and indications are that every shingle that can be produced before May 15th will be needed twice over. Of course, the demand will be light during January and February, but indications are that the manufacturers know their business too well to get frightened because they are

not deluged with orders during the frozen up period of the winter. Realizing that the dealers must buy certainly by March, manufacturers will hold their prices at all hazards. We are inclined to believe that extras will sell next May at \$3.40 to \$3.50. Clear whites, 2nd clears and extra No. 1 are well shipped out also. The demand for all low grades is quiet just now, but these usually commence to move during February. Present market prices are f. o. b. strictly Boston rate of freight, Extras \$3.25 to \$3.30; clears \$2.85 to \$2.95; 2nd clears \$2.25 to \$2.35; clear whites \$2.15 to \$2.25; extra No. 1 \$1.75 to \$1.85.

**DOORS AND MOULDINGS.**

A large buyer of Canadian white pine doors and mouldings is open to contract with a mill for their entire output of No. 3 and 4 qualities of doors and all their mouldings during 1902. Write in the first instance to Empire, care CANADA LUMBERMAN.

**STOCKS AND PRICES.**

It is reported that Allison & Robertson, of Norton Station, N. B., have been given a contract to get out 1,000,000 feet of pulp wood for the St. John Sulphite Pulp Company.

D. A. Huntley, of Parrsboro, N. S., has recently purchased a tract of timber land on the north shore of Kings county, and will cut about 1,000,000 feet of logs on his own property this season.

J. Buchanan, of Winnipeg, has secured a contract from the Canadian Northern Railway Company to take out a large quantity of railroad ties.

Capt. R. C. Bacon, of Moncton, N. B., has recently purchased a block of timber lands, comprising 800 acres, in the vicinity of Grand Lake. He will probably erect a saw mill on the property.

At the Crown Lands office at Fredericton, N. B., three timber berths were disposed of last week as follows: *Outlines*

River, Kent county, 100 miles to Daniel Duffy, at \$20 a mile; Clear Lake, Parish of Musquash, two miles, to G. K. Hanson, at \$42 a mile; Sand Brook, branch of Oro-mocto, two miles, to W. F. Barnhill, at \$8 a mile.

Lumbering on the Black River is brisk this winter. J. R. Booth, of Ottawa, and McLachlan Bros., of Arnprior, have each several camps in operation. Alexander Watt, of Waltham, is jobbing for J. R. Booth on the old Fraser limit.

By a typographical error in our last issue the quantity of spruce deals in stock at Liverpool on November 30, 1900, was given as 2,180 standards, instead of 22,180. The quantity at same date this year is only 9,730 standards.

Concerning cooperage stock the Sutherland, Innes Company, of Chatham, Ont., says: There has been quite a flurry during the past month in the price of cooperage stock. No. 1 staves have taken quite a jump and hoops have advanced all the way from \$1 to \$1.50 per M. No. 1 heading has also come into great demand, and while there has not been any perceptible advance all along the line, individual parties are asking more for No. 1 heading than they have been doing for some time. The stocks of No. 1 staves at the mills are now very light, and as manufacturing has ceased for the season, and jointing will soon be over, the manufacturers will have to rely upon the stock they have left to

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A number of very valuable pine and other timber limits on the north shore of Lake Huron and elsewhere for sale. Also limits bought and sold on commission and estimates given. For particulars, apply to

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