The manufactures of British Columbia held a meeting on August 7th and decided to check further over-production by closing down all the shingle mills from August 15th until the situation was relieved. This step should at once have a beneficial effect upon the market. The demand for timber limits has also slackened, there being but three applications for licenses to cut timber off Government lands during the week ending August 1. Many of the logging camps are still closed down. The Premier has wisely decided not to interfere with the operation of the law prohibiting the export of logs. It is pointed out that the over-production of logs in Washington is just as great as in British Columbia, and that the loggers could not find a market for their production even if the export embargo were removed.

UNITED STATES.

A few days ago it was reported that white pine prices at the head of the lakes had weakened. Late advices do not altogether confirm this report. There has been a slight softening in prices of the upper grades, but this has been offset by the increased strength of the lower qualities. At Tonawanda and Philadelphia an advance of 50 cents has been made on nearly every grade below intermediate. While the demand generally has been of a quiet character, sales at Duluth during the first week of August were quite heavy. It is estimated that fully 15,000,000 feet of various grades of merchantable lumber were contracted for, and many manufacturers are now sold up to the saws. It is said that sales have been at very satisfactory prices. A lot of No. 3 pine was sold at $15. Ohio dealers report that low grade lumber has been moving freely, and that No. 3 and No. 4 boards are strong, with a very light stock in sight. Chicago is experiencing a steady trade and the outlook is good for fall business. Spruce is very strong in New York. Prices are now the highest ever known. At Boston and other eastern points the situation is strong, though less lumber is moving.

The growing strength of common and plain sawed oak and the scarcity of elm are the features of the hardwood market. Buyers are unable to find a sufficient supply of 1¼ inch elm and prices are strong. Maple in the same size is by no means plentiful. Basswood is holding its own, the increase in supply having as yet had no visible effect upon the price.

Any change in the shinge demand has been in the direction of improvement. Shingles of good quality find a ready market, but there is a considerable stock throughout the Eastern States that are not up to standard, and these may have to be sacrificed. More activity in shingles is expected next month.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Although the holiday season is at its height, there has been of late a slight increase in the consumption of lumber at London and Liverpool, which is taken to reflect the conditions throughout the United Kingdom. The outlook in timber-consuming industries is considered bright, and it is probable that the fall will witness increased activity. Canadian lumber of all kinds seems to be in a strong position. All the available stocks have been cleared and there is little in first hands for buyers to select from. The position of the Canadian import, according to the Timber Trades Journal, is quite abnormal, the trade usually counting upon a considerable quantity of New Brunswick spruce about this time; but this season fewer cargoes have come forward than for many years past. No pine whatever has been shipped on consignment, consequently the tendency of values is towards a further advance. The standard sizes in first and second quality are now held at higher figures than at any previous time this season. Third and fourth quality are in larger supply and consequently prices do not show the same degree of strength as those of the better grades. The position of spruce has changed within a week. There is absolutely little or nothing to offer for arrival until the season is more advanced, and then the supplies are expected to be short of the average to an extent that has not been witnessed for some years. Some buyers apparently kept out of the market on the belief that the low rates of freight would encourage shipments. This, however, has not been the case. It is claimed that the low freight rates are due to the fact that there is less lumber to be shipped across the Atlantic. There is a good inquiry for red pine, rock elm and oak. Birch is in large supply and slightly easier.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The barque Maria Laurie is about to load lumber at St. John, N. B., for the Canary Islands.

A raft containing 3,600,000 feet of logs left Stella, on the Columbia River, B. C., August 1, for San Francisco.

J. A. Morrison, of Fredericton, N. B., is shipping large quantities of cedar shingles to the New England States.

During July 3,007,749 feet of lumber was entered at Saginaw and 15,230,988 feet at Bay City, making the total receipts for the month 18,238,737 feet.

The schooner Arona is loading lumber at Bear River, N. S., for Buenos Ayres The Brigt. Dixon Rice is loading at Annapolis, N. S., for the West Indies.

The DeLaplante-McBurney Lumber Company, of North Tonawanda, N. Y., recently purchased 6,000,000 feet of white pine in the vicinity of Duluth and Menominee.

The Robert H. Jenks Lumber Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, have been shipping considerable hemlock to the Tonawandas and other eastern ports from Alpena, Cheboygan and Manistee, Mich.

Since navigation opened 194,000,000 feet of lumber has arrived by vessel at the Tonawandas, as compared with 158,000,000 feet for the same period of last year, an increase of nearly 26,000,000 feet in the receipts for 1903.

The Pigeon River Lumber Company, of Port Arthur, Ont., have already sent two hundred men into the woods. The company expect to make a large cut during the coming season. Six camps will be put in, in addition to two or three jobbers.

There is a strong demand for slack cooperage stock. A Chicago dealer reports sales of No. 2 30 inch elm staves at $5. No. 1 are supposed to be worth from $8.50 to $8.75 for 28 and 30 inch. No. 1 basswood heading is in strong demand at about $7.50.

A quantity of birch timber, from Halifax, N. S., was recently sold at auction in London and brought the following prices: 6-15 ft. 4x10-16 in., 1s 3d per cubic ft.; 3-15 ft. 4x8-9, 1s 2d; 4-15 ft. 4x6-7, 1s 1d; 4-18 ft. 3x13-17, 11½d; 3-19 ft. 1x10-11, 11d; 3-19 ft. 3x9, 10½d; 3-16 ft. 3x8, 10d; 3-19 ft. 3x7, 9½d; 3-16 ft. 2x7-16, 1s 3d; 6-15 ft. 5x6-9, 1s 4d.

Seventeen oak logs from Quebec recently sold in London, at prices ranging from 40 to 50s per load of 50 cubic feet. Elm timber, from Quebec, sold as follows: 40-44 ft. x 12-17 in., 87s 6d per load; 36-38 ft. x 12-21 in., 97s 6d; 84-89 ft. x 13-21 in., 100s; 33-35 ft. x 12-17 in., 97s 6d; 30-32 ft. x 12-21 in., 92s 6d; 26-29 ft. x 11-16 in., 87s 6d.

In Chicago short pine piece stuff is selling wholesale in sizes from 2x4 to 2x10, 10 to 20 feet long, at $17.50 to $19.50 f. o. b. cars. Northern rail shippers are delivering the same sizes and lengths on this rate at $10.50 to $18.50 and these prices are being generally adhered to. No. 1 common boards, all widths, are selling at $21 and No. 2 at $19. No. 1 stock boards, 10 inch, are quoted at $23, and 12 inch at $17; No. 1 4 inch fencing, 10-foot, $22, 16-foot, $23; 6 inch, 10-foot, $25, 16-foot, $26; No. 2 fencing, 4 inch, 10-foot, $17.50, and 6 inch $20, with $1 added for 16 foot and longer.

THE BOSTON MARKET.

The is a little better movement in spruce lumber at Boston with prices steadily held at full quotations. The situation in the East is still very strong, though the mills on the Kennebec are said to be in better shape as to supply of logs than those farther east. The quotations are firm at: Ten and 12 in. dimensions, $21; 9 in. and under, $19; 10 and 12 in. random lengths, 10 feet and up, $20.50; 2x3, 2x4, 2x5, 2x6, 2x7 and 3x4, 10 feet and up, $17 to $17.50; all other randoms, 9 in. and under, 10 feet and up, $18 to $18.50; 5 in. and up, merchantable boards, $17; matched boards, $18 50 to $20; out spruce boards, $13 to $14; bundle furring, $17.

Hemlock lumber is quiet, without change in prices: Boards, 12, 14 and 16 feet stock, $14.75 to $15 for good eastern; Pennsylvania, No. 1, $18.50 to $19.50; No. 2, $15 to $16.50.

There is a fair demand for western pine lumber, with the better grades still very firm: Uppers, 1 to 2 in. $84 to $87; 2½ to 3 in. $92 to $97; 4-in. $96 to $100; selects, 1-in. $76; 1¼ to 1¾ in. $76 to $78; 2-in. $78; 2½ to 3 in. $84; 4-in. $86; fine common, 1-in. $67; 1¼ to 1½ in. $69; 2-in. $72; 2½ to 3 in. $80; 4-in. $82; barn boards, $23 to $33; coffin boards, $28 to $32.

There is only a quiet demand for hardwood lumber, but prices are firm, especially for whitewood and quartered oak: Quartered oak, $75 to $83; plain oak, $45 to $47; common and rejects, $20 to $25; red oak, plain, $43; whitewood, $54 to $60; sap, $43 to $48, common, $38 to $45; brown ash, $41 to $44; white ash, $43 to $46; maple, $33 to $37; end dried white maple, $46; birch, $27 to $30; birch, 75 per cent. red, $45 to $50; northern elm, $29 to $31; Michigan elm, $34 to $37.

Clapboards are steady and unchanged: Extra, $45; clear, $43; second clear, $40; extra No. 1, $30.

Shingles are firm for the better grades but off stock is in full supply and easy: Extra cedar, $3.40 to $3.45; clear, $2.90 to $3.00; second clear, $2.25 to $2.40; extra No. 1, $1.50 to $1.75; British Columbia red cedar, 16-in. five butts to 2-in., $3.50 to $3.60; 18-in. five butts to 2 in., $3.75; five butts to 2¼ in., $3.90.

Laths are quiet: One and five-eigths in., $3.15 to $3.25; 1½-in., $3 to $3.10.

BROOM HANDLES.

If an enterprising man with supplies of cheap Spruce, Basswood or Poplar cares to put in several machines to work broom handles we can take his outpnt. Write in first instance to Empire, care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.