

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the Canada Lumberman).

The dull dog days are now upon the local lumber market, and from all reports business is slack. The old stocks are all out of the local yards, and little of the present season's cut, with the exception of lath is ready to ship. Prospects however for a brisk movement of the latter stock when it is in shape, are good. Prices in the higher

grades remain firm, and are likely to continue so.

While the railways report a fair movement of lumber to Montreal for European export, and to American points, the Ottawa Transportation Company controlling the barge lines, pronounce business slack. There are several reasons for this. In the first place the railway companies have cut into the business by the the water route, and are carrying more lumber during the months

of navigation than they did a decade ago. Moreover the railways have nowadays a brisker winter business than they had in former years, and the approach of summer finds the stocks waiting transportation considerably reduced.

Another factor and a very important one is the coal strike. In the first place, it has crippled the industries badly in the States, and the demand for Canadian lumber has for the moment, dropped off. Again few

many barges are loading lumber for American ports. The Ottawa Transportation Company has not a single barge on the Ottawa-Oswego route, where in previous seasons they placed quite a large fleet. Coal was the common cargo for American and Canadian barges bound for Ottawa, thus providing business for the round trip. There is now no coal to handle and the barges not being in a

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