

Market Reports.

TORONTO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

DEC. 24.—The lumber trade during the last two weeks has been nearly as brisk as during the summer months. Owing to the fine open weather building both in brick and wood have gone on with but little diminution, but during the holidays we do not look for much trade. The amount of lumber piled off at the railway yards has not varied much for the last month past, except in some particular lines. Good cull boards are tending upwards in price. The quantity here now is much smaller than when I wrote you last, and no large stock remaining at any of the mills north of this place. The demand for this grade of lumber is good, owing to the number of speculative buildings in course of erection. The most difficult class of lumber to make sale of at present, on this market, is the coarser grades of shipping cull boards. The cause for this is obvious, builders can use a good grade of mill culls to as good advantage, and save from two to three dollars per M by so doing. I feel convinced, however, that on the opening of the spring of 1886, it will be found that we have no overstock of any kind of lumber, above the legitimate requirements of the trade on our own local markets, of course it will be understood I refer to that already cut and in stock. It would be premature at the present time to speculate as to the probable cut of logs during the present winter; this much, however, is certain, that owing to the lack of sufficient frost to harden the swamps, thus far hauling has been slow and unsatisfactory, and but small progress has been made up to the present time, so that the crop of logs for next season's cut may not prove as large as anticipated.

Efforts will be made by the lumbermen here to get the shunting of cars made free during the next season to all sidings westward of the points of arrival. This concession should certainly be granted, as it is manifestly unfair on the part of the railroad companies to perform the same service eastward free, and charge from \$1 to \$2.50 for a similar service westwards. In fact I have never heard any defence made by the railway companies in regard to such charges, and most certainly no reason that will bear discussion can be made, and in the interests of dealers and consumers alike it is to be hoped that this concession will be granted.

Mill cull boards and scantling	\$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	12 00
Stocks	13 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.	14 00
" " " 18 ft.	15 00
" " " 20 ft.	16 00
" " " 22 ft.	17 00
" " " 24 ft.	18 00
" " " 26 ft.	19 00
" " " 28 ft.	20 00
" " " 30 ft.	21 00
" " " 32 ft.	22 50
" " " 34 ft.	23 00
" " " 36 ft.	24 00
" " " 38 ft.	25 00
" " " 40 to 44 ft.	26 00
Cutting up planks to dry	20 00
boards	16 00
ound dressing stocks	30 00
Picks Am. inspection	35 00
Three uppers, Am. inspection	25 00

11-inch flooring, dressed	14 00
" " " rough	13 00
" " " dressed	14 00
" " " undressed	16 00
" " " dressed	17 00
" " " undressed	18 00
Beaded Sheeting, dressed	12 50
Clapboarding, dressed	2 75
XXX sawn shingles, # M	2 25
Sawn Lath	20 00
Red oak	20 00
Walrus	18 00
Barnwood, No. 1 & 2	25 00
Cherry, No. 1 & 2	25 00
White ash 1 & 2	20 00
Black ash 1 & 2	20 00

OTTAWA

The Canadian Journal of Commerce says—Now that the saving season may be said to be practically over, it is possible to estimate correctly the amount of business done this season by the Chaudiere mill proprietors. Most of these mills have been working for seven months, one having started as early as the 25th of April; and, though the count in the various offices is not quite complete, it is gleaned that the total cut will foot up about 277,000,000 feet. Thus it is somewhat less than last year, but it is stated notwithstanding, that sales have been fairly good.

Lumbermen on the Chaudiere say that, in this season's sales, quality has largely regulated the market; first-class stuff going off steadily at good figures, while poorer qualities were slow, and only saleable at figures much lower in proportion. Knotty and rough lumber has not been in such demand as last year, and consequently the net cash returns have not been so great; but good first-class lumber has been readily disposed of at satisfactory figures. An examination of the percentage of good and rough lumber shows that, on an average of all the season's cut, not more, and perhaps not so much, as 90 per cent. can be classed as first class, while the remainder is divided into lower grades. The season's trade has been on the whole good, and dealers claim that the outlook for a good season next year is promising, unless some unforeseen event should mar the prospect.

CHICAGO.

AT THE YARDS.

The Northwestern Lumberman of Dec. 26th says:—It would be unreasonable to look for numerous orders and heavy shipments this month, and especially in the heel of it, when the members of the trade are divided in their minds and their time between closing up the year's business and the holiday festivities. Yet there are dealers who are inclined to complain because there is not a lively demand and heavy shipments. It is safe to say that there was never a time in the history of the Chicago trade—not even in the booming year 1882—when shipments to the country were not comparatively meagre in the last half of December. The current month is no exception to the general rule. And yet there is a considerable movement of lumber. The local requirement is being to a great degree maintained by the late moderate weather.

But the city and suburban demand is not taking all the lumber that is now being sold. There are good trains pulled out of the district every day, loaded with lumber bound for all points of the compass. Though rates to eastern points are high, they do not operate as a complete bar to eastward movement.

It can, however, be intimated this season that it is quite possible that trade will take an earlier start than has been usual in former years. Conditions are a little peculiar. Last year the yards in the southwest were loaded up on a 5-cent rate Kansas city and common points. The result was that the spring trade in that direction was to a large extent anticipated, for the retail yards in Kansas and Western Missouri were filled up with stock that has been carried over the winter. This year there has been no loading up in the southwest or anywhere else. It is thus likely that the spring trade will start earlier than common; a condition that will be emphasized if the winter should continue so open as to permit of outdoor consumption of lumber. Dealers can keep their weather eye on this view of the situation, so as to be ready to jump into the breach when it is open; but they should not jump too soon.

It is also possible that the retail dealers of the interior may send in their orders for the spring trade unusually early, for fear that there may be a rise of prices later on. This will depend on several things that may appear after January 1st. If it shall then be seen that the aggregate of stocks is larger than was anticipated, that the logging season promises a full crop, and that the general outlook is not favorable, there will be a continuance of the hesitating, hand-to-mouth manner of buying. But, on the contrary, if the open winter should promise a limited log crop, the lumber in sight should be less than was anticipated, and rail road building boom larger for the year to come, everybody holding lumber would tighten his grip on prices, and buying of stock for the spring trade would evince an anxiety to put in supplies before a possible advance in values.

It is claimed by some of the wholesale dealers that the expectation of break in freight rates throughout the fall prevented many heavy retail yards from stocking up in November. The break did not come, and there was no extraordinary movement of lumber. If this outcome is to be regretted, because there is

more stock remaining in the yards here than there otherwise would have been, some consolation can be extracted from the fact that what lumber was not moved in November will have to go forward after January 1st.

During the week two strikes of Chicago, Burlington & Quincy employees have slightly interrupted the handling of cars in the Twenty-second street district. There was a little strike of the engineers, and another of the switchmen. Both fared off quickly, and the pulling and the switching was resumed after a brief stoppage.

STOCK ON HAND NOV. 1.

	1885.	1884.
Lumber & timber	685,050 130	689,667,336
Shingles	338,319,180	321,981,625
Lath	76,214,168	70,742,042
Pickets	2,789,250	1,830,118
Cedar posts	637,435	400,805

EASTERN FREIGHT RATES.

FROM CHICAGO AND COMMON POINTS ON CAR LOAD LO OF HARD AND SOFT LUMBER.

IN EFFECT NOV. 1.

To New York	35c.
Boston	40c.
Philadelphia	33c.
Baltimore	32c.
Washington	32c.
Albany	32c.
Troy	32c.
Buffalo and Pittsburgh	32c.
Shenectady	32c.
Wheeling	32c.
Suspension Bridge	32c.
Salamanca	32c.
Black Rock	32c.
Dunkirk	32c.
Eric	32c.
Toronto	32c.

ALBANY.

Quotations at the yards are as follows:—

Pine, clear, # M.	\$33 00
Pine, clear, # M.	48 00
Pine, select	45 00
Pine, select	22 00
Pine, good box	11 00
Pine, common box	00 42
Pine, 10-in. plank, each	00 23
Pine, 10-in. plank, culls, each	00 28
Pine boards, 10-in.	00 16
Pine, 10-in. boards, culls	00 16
Pine, 10-in. boards, 16 ft.	23 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 16 ft.	23 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 13 ft.	23 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, select	40 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, common	15 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, select	40 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, common	13 00
Spruce, boards, each	00 00
Spruce, plank, 11-in., each	00 00
Spruce, plank, 2-in., each	00 12
Spruce, wall strips, each	00 00
Hemlock, boards, each	00 00
Hemlock, joist, 4x8, each	00 00
Hemlock, joist, 2x12, each	00 00
Hemlock, wall strips, 2x4, each	00 00
Black walnut, 3 inch	80 00
Black walnut, 2 inch	00 00
Scaymore, 1-inch	21 00
Scaymore, 1-inch and thicker	33 00
White wood, 1-inch	23 00
Ash, good, # M.	40 00
Ash, good quality, # M.	25 00
Cherry, good, # M.	60 00
Cherry, common, # M.	25 00
Oak, good, # M.	40 00
Oak, second quality, # M.	30 00
Basswood, # M.	25 00
Hickory, # M.	40 00
Maple, Canada, # M.	25 00
Maple, American, per M.	38 00
Chestnut, # M.	00 00
Shingles, shaved, pine, # M.	00 00
" 2nd quality	4 30
" extra, sawed, pine	00 00
" clear	00 00
" cedar, mixed	00 00
" cedar, XXX	2 25
" hemlock	00 00
Lath, hemlock, # M.	00 00
Lath, spruce	00 00

BUFFALO.

We quote cargo lots—

Uppers	\$45 00
Common	17 00
Culls	12 00

OSWEGO, N.Y.

From Our Own Correspondent

Dealers are busy piling up late receipts. The demand is very light and business is almost at a standstill.

Three uppers	\$42 00
Picking	22 00
Cutting up	22 00
Fine Common	14 00
Common	11 00
Culls	10 00
Mill run lots	16 00
Sidings, selected, 1 in	32 00
" 1 1/2 in	32 00
Mill run, 1x10, 13 to 16 ft.	10 00
Selected	21 00
Shippers	14 00
Mill run, 1x10	17 00
Selected	14 00
Shippers	15 00
Mill run, 1 & 1 1/2 in, strips	22 00
Selected	11 00
Culls	25 00
1x7 selected for clapboards	3 00
Shingles, XXX, 13 in. pine	2 25
XXX Cedar	1 50
Lath 1 1/2, No 1	1 00
No 2	1 25

TONAWANDA.

CARGO LOTS—MICHIGAN INSPECTION.

Three uppers	\$42 00
Common	18 00
Culls	10 00

LIVERPOOL.

The Timber Trades Journal of Dec. 12th says:—Although the recent excitement consequent upon the elections is rapidly waning, if indeed it be not practically dead, there has been, so far, no evidence of any desire to return to business on the part of buyers, whose unwillingness to give out any orders of importance is as strongly marked this year as it has recently been. Neither do the merchants on the spot here, if we may judge from the auction sale held on Wednesday appear inclined to speculate in any extensive buying at present.

Fortunately the arrivals of timber and deals continue light, and with only a small quantity on the quays there is no necessity for putting on undue pressure to effect sales.

Should the early part of the new year bring with it that resumption of good trade which all have so long hoped was near at hand, but which has been so disappointingly deferred, we ought to see some advance in prices, especially in spruce deals and other leading articles of the trade, as the stocks, though sufficient for the demands likely to be made upon them at the present rate of consumption, are not above an average.

The only public sale held since my last communication was that of Wednesday, the 9th inst., above referred to, when Messrs. Farnworth & Jardine offered the cargo of spruce and pine deals now landing ex Annabella, from Dalhousie. The company present was limited in number, few buyers from the country being present. The proceedings were very slow, and though the auctioneer went through the catalogue twice, his patience was not rewarded as it ought to have been, and about one-half the spruce deals were withdrawn, as were also the 3rd quality pine deals, the pine scantling and pine deal ends.

The parcel of birch timber withdrawn at the last sale from the cargo per Henriette, from Capo Breton, consisting of 873 logs, was again brought forward, but no acceptable bid was made for it; but we believe a line of it was subsequently sold on private terms.

LONDON.

The Timber Trades Journal of Dec. 12th says:—There was really nothing fresh to report in Wednesday's sale. The bulk of the goods were offered under reserve, of which, as far as we could make out, only a couple of lots were sold.

Of the unreserved parcels there was nothing particular to attract attention. The pine boards, ex York City, in small lines, excited some competition, but, we consider, without much advantage to the price, each bidder drawing the line at previous values for similar goods. The goods ex Queen of the North also hung at prices which similar realized a short time back; in fact, the cautious way that goods are now bought at public sales is strongly indicative of an overdone market.

Though Canadian wood is not heavy in the market, pine, in batton and board sizes, comes in contact with North of Europe wood in the better qualities, and these selling for almost nominal values has an unfavorable influence on Quebec stuff.

With the feeble prices Archangel sold at last week, £14 15s. for 1 1/2 x 7 Quebec 1st pine is by no means a bad price. The various little odd lots sold low, and 4th Goffe 1x7 yellow at £5 5s. is about 20s under cost. Some Wyborg submitted, 1st quality, 2x8, at £0 15s., seemed about level with prices of a month ago. In one of the November sales 2x7 fetched £6, so that the present would rather incline toward an improvement. These small parcels are, however, very unsafe guides to market changes; but 3x11 Wyborg at £7 10s. is not so bad.

Of the St. John's yellow pine sold at Messrs. Churchill & Sim's sale on Thursday we need hardly make any comment, the low prices realized speak for themselves, and 3x11 to 15 in., in lengths from 10 to 22 feet at £6 10s. is significant of the low estimation the wood was held in.