

they require a special kind of wood for their packages, and spruce is in consequence entirely neglected.

DEMARARA.

In the year 1897 this island imported 4,463,673 feet of white pine and 934,439 feet of pitch pine, on which the duty was \$3 per thousand feet. The white pine sold at from \$21 to \$24, refuse bringing \$17. The average price for pitch pine was \$23. Some shingles were also imported. White pine is imported in about the proportion of 20 per cent. of 2 inch plank and 80 per cent. of 1 inch boards, 12 to 16 ft. long, which is received principally from New York and Portland, and much of it is known to be Canadian lumber. The trade in Nova Scotia, at one time large, has decreased of late. Spruce and hemlock do not appear to be in demand.

Messrs. Merwin, Woods & Co., Fredericksted, write: "This market is too small to receive cargoes of lumber. We, ourselves, from time to time, order small quantities of white pine boards from Halifax when we have any difficulty with freights by steamer from New York, but we always find that the Canadian lumber is not uniform in thickness; that is, we require, as well as the other West Indian islands, boards 12 inches wide, from 14 to 16 feet in length and one inch in thickness. The Canadian lumber, as a rule, when ordered for one inch, is either one inch scant or one inch too full, i.e., 1 1/16, all mixed together, which is not satisfactory to the carpenters here; in consequence New York lumber for general purposes, though costing more, is preferred. The only importers, Messrs. Bartram Bros., get their

staves and heading, \$28,000; all other lumber, \$4,600; and a comparatively very small quantity of sawed and hewn timber and logs. Doors, sash, blinds and house finishings aggregated \$8,900 for Cuba and \$2,400 for Porto Rico; hogheads and barrels, \$74,000 to the former and \$2,000 to the latter; household furniture, \$217,000 and \$25,000 respectively; woodenware, \$12,000 and \$1,000, and all other manufactures of wood, \$133,000 and \$4,000 respectively. These figures, while representing the imports of one of the most prosperous years, show the extent and importance of the market, to which attention might well be given by Canadian exporters. Spruce and white pine would be favorably received.

According to the proclamation of the President of the United States, the duty on lumber will be about as follows: Staves, per 1,000, 2 pesos; boards, deals, etc., round wood and timber for shipbuilding, per cubic metre, 1 pesos; planed or dove-tailed, broomsticks and cases wherein imported goods were packed, per 100 kilos, 0.40 pesos; cabinet-makers' woods in deals, boards or logs, per 100 kilos, 3 pesos, sawed in veneers, 4.35 pesos; furniture or bent wood, per 100 kilos, 10 pesos; upholstered furniture, 0.60 pesos; common joinery, 2 pesos. The peso is the Spanish dollar, gold, and its value is 92.6 cents of Canadian money. The kilo is equivalent to 2,204 pounds.

ANTIGUA.

Following is a return showing the quantity of lumber, shingles, staves and shooks imported into Antigua for five years, from 1893 to 1897:

Year.	Pitch Pine. Feet.	White Pine and Spruce. Feet.	Shingles.		Shooks.	Staves.
			Cedar and Pine.	Cypress.		
1893.	457,947 U. S.	602,960 B. N. A. 850,876 U. S. 1,000 U. K.	680,000 B. N. A. 797,250 U. S. 16,500 W. Islands.	480,450 U. S.	8,148 U. S. 2,981 B. N. A.	4,800 Bdos.
1894.	455,251 U. S.	332,312 B. N. A. 506,677 U. S.	359,250 B. N. A. 150,000 U. S.	296,260 U. S. 5,000 Bdos.	1,522 Barbados. 1,201 B. N. A. 1,800 U. S. 130 French Ports.	6,000 Bdos.
1895.	308,924 U. S.	393,781 B. N. A. 316,354 U. S. 1,370 B. Guiano.	431,850 B. N. A. 100,000 U. S.	568,000 U. S. 78,600 Bdos.	3,910 B. N. A. 500 U. S. 400 Barbados.	25,838 U. S. 16,857 B. N. A. 2,232 Bdos.
1896.	366,619 U. S.	247,121 U. S. 110,200 Barbados. 29,929 B. Guiana. 26,551 Trinidad.	150,000 U. S. 115,000 B. N. A.	349,200 U. S.	3,500 U. S. 900 B. N. A. 400 Barbados.	24,000 Bdos. 36,721 U. S.
1897.	182,827 U. S.	395,268 U. S. 118,607 Barbados. 27,323 B. N. A.	386,750 B. N. A. 20,000 U. S.	100,000 U. S.	1,465 B. N. A. 1,200 U. S.	2,400 Bdos.

lumber exclusively from New York. We only order from twenty to thirty thousand feet at a time, which is sufficient for our needs."

CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

It is expected that the lumber trade of Cuba and Porto Rico will immediately revive now that peace has been restored. Buildings will be reconstructed, and much of the lumber required therefor will be imported. The native timber is entirely of the hardwood variety, more suited to the requirements of the shipbuilder, cabinet, furniture and implement manufacturer. The principal woods are mahogany and cedar, the latter being exported to some extent, but the expense of logging, estimated at \$50 per thousand feet, has prevented the expansion of the industry.

In the year 1893 Cuba and Porto Rico imported over \$70,000,000 worth of merchandise, the greater quantity from the United States and Spain. Steadily since that year the imports have declined, until in 1896 they reached only \$50,000,000. Lumber has been imported almost entirely from the Southern States, and consists chiefly of pitch pine. Statistics show that in the year 1893 Cuba received the following: 29,000,000 feet of boards, deals and plank; 3,300,000 feet of joists and scantling; 232,000 shingles; \$24,000 worth of hoops; \$152,000 worth of shooks; \$66,000 worth of staves and heading, and \$63,000 worth of all other lumber. For the same year the imports into Porto Rico were: 8,000,000 feet of boards, deals and plank; 1,000,000 feet of joists and scantling; 65,000 shingles; shooks, \$76,000 worth; hoops, \$8,000;

The lumber most in demand is pitch pine scantling, 2 x 3 to 6 square; pitch pine plank, 2 inches thick; pitch pine boards for flooring, 1 inch thick, 6 inches wide; white pine and spruce plank, 2 inches thick; white pine and spruce boards, 1 inch thick, 12 inches wide.



MEXICO

THE MEXICAN LUMBER TRADE.

By Percy L. Robinson, Mexico City.

As is well known, Mexico furnishes a large variety of dye and cabinet woods, which grow in the coast countries, these woods finding their present markets in New York, San Francisco and European ports. Pine and oak, used entirely for home consumption, are found mainly on the great plateau and are almost invariably inferior to similar lumber from northern latitudes; therefore the latter will always find a ready market in Mexico at satisfactory prices. A potent factor in the Mexican lumber industry is the difficulty of securing satisfactory cutting rights, owing to the inaccessibility of the forests and the fact that these are usually the property of Indian tribes, who hold them in common.

At present nearly all importations of lumber into Mexico come from the United States, the principal reason of this being the proximity of one country to the other, and consequently cheaper transportation than obtains between Mexico and any other country which might share the trade.

At present most of the best oak is shipped from Mem-

phis, Tenn., and St. Louis, Mo., and is worth here about \$200 Mexican currency per 1,000 feet, the carload freight rates to the frontier being 28 cents gold per 100 lbs. from Memphis, and 33 cents from St. Louis, and from the frontier to Mexico City and common points \$16 Mexican currency per 1,000 kilograms, which is equal to about 33 cents gold per 100 lbs. at present rate of exchange, 120 premium. This makes a through rate of 61 cents gold per 100 lbs. from Memphis and 66 cents from St. Louis.

The bulk of imported lumber, however, is pine, and a general idea of its price in this republic will be given by the present retail price in Mexico City of tongued and grooved planed pine, namely, \$60 to \$65 Mexican currency per 1,000 feet, and \$55 for flooring and ceiling. Most of the pine comes from Texas and Louisiana, either all rail or via Mexican gulf ports; the present carload freight rates from mill points to the frontier being 18 cents gold per 100 lbs. plus the 33 cent rate to Mexican City and common points, which makes a through rate of 51 cents gold per 100 lbs.

The lumber carload freight rate from New York by steamer and rail to Mexico City and common points is 60 cents gold per 100 lbs., and on Canadian shipments the rate from point of origin to New York would have to be added, not to mention the expense of bonding through the United States.

It will thus be seen that, with the present transportation facilities and rates of freight, there is little opening for the sale of Canadian lumber in Mexico, but should a direct line of carriers be established between Canadian and Mexican ports, Canadian lumber merchants should be able to build up a very good trade with this Republic.

The following table shows the amount (in Mexican currency) and nature of the importations of lumber into the Republic of Mexico, during the fiscal years of 1895-6 and 1896-7:

Class of lumber.	Fiscal year 1895-6.		Fiscal year 1896-7.	
	Weight in kilograms.	Inv. value Mexican silver.	Weight in kilograms.	Inv. value Mexican silver.
NON-DUTIABLE.				
Ordinary boards, beams, scantling, etc., in the rough	77,759,131	\$ 612,819	89,051,478	\$ 714,517
Railway ties	14,176,850	110,716	20,866,919	116,559
Box lumber and boxes	6,431,457	153,670	4,741,472	100,000
Barrels and staves	30,706	27,000	27,000	27,000
Other non-dutiable lumber	2,272,781	56,145	2,540,285	43,321
DUTIABLE.				
Tongued and grooved planed boards. Duty \$1 Mexican currency per 100 square meters	2,109,103	189,754	3,336,168	357,351
Fine lumber, planed, all kinds, paying various duties	274,547	12,093	159,557	10,471
		\$1,103,903		\$1,400,461

SOUTH AMERICA

SOME of the South American Republics are becoming important markets for Canadian lumber. Several cargoes of pine and spruce are shipped annually from the port of Montreal, while the shipments from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia represent no small quantity. Of the latter no records are available, but it is known that some firms are engaged in that trade almost exclusively.

ARGENTINA.

In the year 1897 our direct exports of lumber to Argentina was valued at \$538,000, an increase of over \$100,000 over the previous year. Mr. Edmund E. Sheppard, Trade Commissioner to South America, reports that this trade can be very largely increased, as the woods of that country suitable for lumber are grown nearly altogether in the south towards Patagonia, and are very heavy and not adapted to the purposes for which white pine is used. Spruce is brought nearly altogether from Maine, and handling it is already a very large business. The export of portions of houses already prepared is successful in but few countries, owing to the tariffs, but the export of white pine lumber to Argentina, there to be milled and made into doors and sashes and frames in the yard where it is received, should be a very profitable business, for of all the countries of the south, Argentina is most rapidly increasing in population, the stretches of arable land being enormous, and the erection of small dwellings proceeding at a very rapid rate. The export to Argentina of lumber suitable for the fitting of