

CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

The lumber demand continues fairly satisfactory all over the province, although there has been a falling off in the volume of orders booked from the Eastern States. Until the labor troubles in New York are settled shipments to that market are likely to be very light. The local consumption is large. The fine weather of the past week has permitted outdoor work to be carried on without interruption, and builders have been large buyers of lumber. Implement and furniture factories are also increasing their stocks at each favorable opportunity. The trend of prices has been such as to bring the higher and lower grades closer together. Nearly all the better grades of pine are about \$2 per thousand lower than a fortnight ago, while the lower qualities have stiffened in price. Mill culls, for instance, are almost invariably held at an advance of 50 cents. Fox and common lumber have remained about stationary, but with the buyer usually willing to concede more than the seller. Inch No. 1 cuts and better, which a short time ago were held at \$50 at the mill, are now freely offered at \$48, while 1½ inch cuts are quoted at \$53 as compared with \$55 a couple of weeks ago. There continues to be heavy buying of hemlock both in dimension timber and lumber, with no apparent weakness in prices. The demand for hardwoods has not been quite so urgent as in the month of September, but as the supply is light there is no uneasiness over the situation. Lath is not a quick seller, and in some quarters predictions of lower prices are heard. For No. 1 4-foot pine lath \$2.85 at the mill is asked, and for No. 2 \$2.25.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Lumber shipments from the eastern provinces are showing less activity, due in part to the advance in freight rates. Ship-owners are now asking 50 shillings from St. John to Great Britain, the increase being based on the higher cost of insurance and the fact that only small deck-loads can be carried. Nevertheless, firmness characterizes spruce lumber prices. The stocks carried by manufacturers are so light that they are not worrying over their disposal. We cannot conscientiously report any improvement in the shingle situation. There is a large supply of low grade cedar shingles, and as it is impossible to hold the small manufacturers together, prices remain low. The upper grades are steadier and bring from \$3.40 to \$3.50 for Boston delivery.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

There is still a very satisfactory movement of lumber throughout Manitoba and the Territories. There are so many buildings in process of completion that the demand for finishing lumber is quite heavy. Up to the end of September of

this year the building inspector of Winnipeg issued 1,127 permits for buildings, of a total value of \$5,235,700. The lumber situation in British Columbia has improved, foreign shipments being more numerous than for some weeks past. The threatened labor troubles in the shingle industry have been averted, and as the new arrangement for the disposal of the shingle output is now in force, more settled conditions are expected to prevail. It is understood that according to the agreement, each mill owner will pay to the association 35 cents for every thousand shingles produced, this sum to be returned at the end of certain fixed periods to those manufacturers who have not exceeded the percentage of output awarded them. Mill owners who exceed their allotted percentage will be penalized by a fine, in addition to the forfeiture of the deposits made on their output. It is thought that this arrangement will work out satisfactorily.

UNITED STATES.

The white pine market in the United States has become quite irregular. The higher grades are off from \$2 to \$4 per thousand in nearly all the leading markets, while the lower grades, and particularly mill culls and box lumber, are somewhat stronger than at last report. The fact that there continues to be a heavy demand for boxes is taken to indicate that the general business of the country is in a prosperous condition. Last week 25,000,000 feet of lumber were shipped from Duluth, largely to the east. At Buffalo and Tonawanda the demand has lately picked up in a slight degree, although there is not the uniformity of favorable reports that characterizes the fall trade of some years.

Norway piece stuff is in active request, and with a continuance of present demand there is not likely to be any cut in prices of this class of lumber. From some points a slight falling off in the demand for hardwood lumber is reported. Basswood, which has been very scarce all season, is in more plentiful supply. Maple is a good seller, notwithstanding the weakness of maple flooring. Some of the mills are still cutting prices on the latter commodity, and there is no improvement in sight. Spruce prices are unchanged. Many of the small mills are now shutting down and the large ones have orders on hand to keep them running for some weeks.

There is no decided tendency to the shingle market. A report from Marinette, Mich., states that some of the mills in that vicinity have a large stock of shingles on hand and will close down until the market shows more strength and activity.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The announcement of the suspension of another firm of timber merchants has further unsettled the British market. It is some satisfaction to learn that the mis-

fortune was the result of the continued decline in securities rather than of unprofitable transactions in lumber. The knowledge of this fact will no doubt tend in a degree to assure the lumber trade. There can be no doubt, however, but that the unsettled financial and political condition of Great Britain is against any improvement in the timber trade at the present time. Holders of lumber find it difficult to realize on their stocks, although it is admitted that consumers have been buying very sparingly for some time past. The position of importers who have large stocks on hand is strengthened by the action of the shippers in holding out for high prices for next year's shipments. Figures of the stock on hand at Liverpool on October 1st show that in waney pine timber, elm timber, birch plank, and spruce deals there is a considerable shortage as compared with one year ago, while square pine and birch timber and Quebec pine deals are in slightly larger stock. There is a fair demand for the best quality of timber and lumber, but the lower grades are difficult to dispose of.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The steamer Glen Head is loading deals at St. Thomas, Que., for Belfast, Ireland.

Sullivan & Company are shipping a considerable quantity of elm lumber from Ontario to Buffalo.

There has been a drop in Michigan in the price of cedar posts and poles, the latter being off about 25 per cent.

The Eastern Lumber Company, of Tonawanda, N. Y., last week purchased 12,000,000 feet of lumber at Duluth.

The Lake Megantic Lumber Company, of Lake Megantic, Que., are putting in five camps this fall in the Woburn district, at the head of the Arnald river.

Cargo prices for mill run Norway piece stuff in Chicago are \$16.50 to \$16.75; short piece stuff, \$16. Mill run hemlock sells at \$12 to \$12.50 for short lengths.

The Pacific Coast manufacturers of red cedar shingles are said to have made an advance of five cents, with the probability of another similar advance at an early date.

The tendency of lath is to decline. White pine lath is offered in Chicago at \$3 to \$3.10 a thousand, and No. 2 at \$2.50, but it is believed that these prices are frequently shaded.

On Wednesday, October 21st, the New Brunswick Government will offer for sale the license to cut timber on three square miles on the Magaguadavic river, above Plume Ridge, the applicant for which is Robert Anderson.

The Muskoka Wood Manufacturing Company, of Huntsville, Ont., are paying from \$5 to \$6 per 1,000 feet for 10 to 16 foot hemlock logs delivered in Vernon Peninsular or Fairy Lakes, and \$7 to \$8.50 per M for other hardwoods.

Two timber berths were sold by the New Brunswick Government last week as follows: Three miles on East Sebbis river to A. R. Slipp at \$50 per mile; 3 miles at head of Pleasant Brook, Gaspareau river, to Fred. E. Sayre, at \$8.50 per mile.

There were rafted by the Fredericton Boom Company, of Fredericton, N.B., during the past season 34,164 joints of timber, containing 80,009,575 superficial

feet. This included 780,110 feet of hemlock, 8,395,230 feet of cedar, 1,448,310 feet of pine, 1,253 pieces of pulpwood, 2,967 feet of fir, and 69,356,223 feet of spruce.

Last week there arrived at Owen Sound, Ont., for the John Harrison & Sons Company, a raft containing approximately 3,500,000 feet of timber. The timber was cut on the company's limits on the Magnetawan river, and included pine, hemlock and cedar. This is the largest raft ever brought into Owen Sound harbor, its value being about \$40,000.

One of the most reassuring features in the present market situation, says the American Lumberman, is the heavy demand for box lumber. Box and shoo factories are all busy and their requirements hold the prices of box grades of lumber at top notch figures. When the box factories are busy the general business must be in prosperous shape.

The receipts of lumber at the Tonawandas during September were 64,870,684 feet by water, exceeding the receipts of the corresponding month of last year by 17,414,435 feet. Since the season opened 322,606,571 feet have arrived, as compared with 285,586,865 feet for the same period of 1902. An increase in the shipment of lumber from the Tonawandas over the Erie canal was recorded last month.

Thomas Bouregard, Captain W. H. Neale and Captain E. W. Brydges, of Warroad, Minn., have just concluded a contract with the Rat Portage Lumber Company to deliver several million feet of timber at Warroad next summer. This timber will be towed to Warroad from points on the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River and will be shipped by the Canadian Northern Railway to the Rat Portage Lumber Company at Winnipeg. The contract is one of the largest ever made for towage on the Lake of the Woods.

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