

on contract. The market is steady, with a slight upward tendency, although generally there is not as much activity in the movement of stock as might be expected at this season of the year. Importers have found difficulty in making sales at the prices which must be asked in view of the increased values on this side of the water. Notwithstanding, the conditions at the leading ports in Great Britain point to a steady trade and no weakening of prices. At Liverpool there are numerous orders in the market from contractors and other large consumers, and these orders must have a beneficial effect in the way of strengthening the position of holders of stock. In Canadian goods, spruce seems to be attracting the most attention. At Cardiff it is low in stock, and there is an absence of long lengths. At Bristol importers are offering full prices, and find difficulty in obtaining goods. In cases where lengths are not important, Quebec spruce deals of third quality are at present a little cheaper than New Brunswick deals. The stock of pine deals at many of the ports has also become reduced below the average, and the demand is fair. Red pine deals continue to advance in price, and arrivals are readily taken up. In square and waney timber the market is firm, Quebec oak particularly being scarce. It is believed that Quebec timber will realize higher prices than last season, partly due to the increased freight rates.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

There is a good demand in Chicago for common inch lumber, with prices firm at \$12.50 to \$13, delivered.

Robinson Bros., of Tonawanda, last week purchased 3,000,000 feet of pine from the Metropolitan Lumber Co., of Metropolitan, Mich.

It is reported from Rainy River that a special timber agent has seized timber valued at about \$20,000, said to have been illegally cut on government lands.

Spruce is now selling in the New York market at \$17 for 6 and 7 inch and \$17.50 for 8, 9 and 10 inch, of merchantable quality. White pine is also high and scarce.

The steamship Wilderspool sailed from Parrsboro, N.S., on May 26th, for Manchester, with 1,247 stds. of deals, scantlings and boards, shipped by William Mackay.

Dry stocks of pine on the Saginaw river are exhausted, and the only trading is for stocks to be cut. Log run is held at \$17 to \$24, box lumber at \$13, Norway bill stuff at \$10.50 to \$11 for 12, 14 and 16-foot lengths, and mill culls at \$9 to \$11.

H. R. Goodday & Co., of Quebec, have already shipped quite a large quantity of lumber this season to Great Britain. Besides part cargoes already shipped by sundry liners, they are now loading their third ocean steamer, taking about three million feet of spruce deals.

Recently in London, Eng., a few lots of specially unsaleable dimension in spruce, viz, 3 x 10 third quality, averaged £7 15s per std., whereas only a fortnight previously similar goods only realized £7. 3 x 9 deals are now selling at £7 15s to £8 according to length, while 3 x 11 planks command £8 5s per std.

A report from San Francisco, dated June 5th, states that the Pacific coast lumber manufacturers have formed a combine, comprising all the Pacific coast lumber manufacturers in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon engaged in the export trade. Under the new schedule lumber is said to have advanced \$1 per thousand feet.

Mr. A. F. Bury Austin, wholesale lumber and timber, Board of Trade Building, Montreal, has secured some large contracts to supply material for the construction of the Shawenegan Falls Water &

Power Co.'s works at Shawenegan Falls, Que., and also contract to supply the material for the construction of bridges, etc., for the Great Northern railway now building from Hawkesbury to Quebec city.

On Thursday, June 1st, there were offered for sale at the Russell House, Ottawa, about 180 square miles of timber berths owned by Thos. Mackie, of Pembroke. The first lot, comprising No. 149, 150, 151 and 152 on the river Coulogne, Quebec, 156 square miles, brought an offer of \$100,000, but was withdrawn. For the second lot, comprising 22½ square miles in Butt township, Parry Sound, owned by Barnett & Mackie, no offer was made.

A correspondent of the American lumberman, writing from Saginaw, says: "Lumbermen who cut logs in Canada expecting to raft them to Michigan, and who did not make arrangements later to have them cut over there, are storing them in the hope that later in the season they will be able to bring them to this side. Chas. A. Eddy said the other day that his firm has 12,000,000 feet which will be stored. He believes that later on in the season some arrangement will be effected whereby the logs will come over. The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co. has several million feet to bring to Saginaw, but it will have to store over there about 5,000,000 feet cut on crown lands."

BUFFALO AND TONAWANDA.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

There is a continuation of the activity in all sorts and grades of lumber, and there is promise of a long and profitable run for the dealer as well as the producer. It is maintained generally that the margin of profit is not as great now as it was before the evil days of 1893, but that is still true of all business, and it may remain so. The amount is larger, so that the actual profit ought to be in the same neighborhood.

As an indication of the change for the better, someone has estimated that a certain lumber business, of course one of the largest here, will gross on the same cut and handling not less than \$75,000 more this year than was possible last year. This means everything to the trade, and it is often needed. No one out of lumber has much idea how it has dragged along, with so many other branches of trade on a paying basis again. It is always said that lumber is last to sympathize with a change, either up or down, and it has amply proved the saying this time.

It is not pleasant to note that the sentiment here is much more against reciprocity with Canada now than it was before the Joint High Commission made a failure of the effort to come to an understanding, for somehow it seems to be agreed here that Canada wanted it all, and so long as that idea prevails with us there is not likely to be any relaxing of the tariff lines either way. Buffalo is much more favorable to low tariff, lumber with other things, than formerly, and though Tonawanda was at one time high tariff and is likely to be somewhat of that persuasion still, it is not so decided as formerly. For this reason the regret occasioned by the failure of reciprocity is all the greater.

There is considerable pine lumber coming in here from Canada this summer by water, as it is now felt that producers can pay the duty, however much they dislike to. The disappointment is in hardwood, which has become so scattering all through the Canadian districts formerly patrolled from here that there is not much use in hunting any more. If there is anything in hardwood on the other side of the line, please let the fact be known, and there is more than one dealer ready to take the next train for the spot. All of which means that we are so short of hardwood that any length will be gone in order to get a supply. It is coming down the lakes at a greater rate this season than ever before, especially to the Black Rock yards. The Sullivans, who were last to retire from Canada, have already brought down a number of cargoes and will continue through the season. They get red oak, elm, basswood, ash and the like, and if southern Michigan is laid under contribution white oak can be found, though it does not grow much north of Saginaw.

Manager Graves, of the Holland & Emery Lumber Company, is in the lumber woods of the Byng Inlet, and has both of the new saw mills running. The cut will be large, not a little of it coming to the yard at Black Rock. In order to facilitate the business a partial re-organization has been effected. L. P. Graves

remains manager of the Holland & Emery Company, but will not be interested in the big yard at lower Black Rock very directly. A new firm, Holland, Manbert & George, has been set up, which will operate the yard and buy and sell mostly American lumber enough to keep it fully occupied. The members of the firm are N. C. Holland, son of Nelson Holland, A. C. Manbert and Henry George, long in the employ of the Holland interest.

The lake season opened late, but Buffalo has received 22,829,000 feet already, against 24,864,000 feet last season to date, which was close to twice as long as this season has been so far. The two Tonawandas have fallen short of last season only 5,490,000 feet, and will soon be ahead of it, as is shown by the canal shipments, which are 23,219,000 feet, against 7,400,000 feet to date last season.

Vessel men say that lumber freights by lake are firmer at the opening figure, \$2 from Duluth, than they were at the opening, and they expect steady business all the season at paying rates.

The lumber yards of Buffalo entirely escaped the great strike that tied up everything else on the docks for more than three weeks. The shovers asked for more pay during the strike and obtained it, the dealers feeling committed to the advance on account of a promise that if business was good they would pay it. The existence of a strike may have had something to do with the advance, which was on a basis of 5 cents from the 22 cents per thousand that has been paid several years on pine, other woods being in proportion.

There is a good demand for shingles, and both is very scarce. Hemlock lumber has lately advanced to \$11 for 10 feet boards and under, which, considering that the price has been down to \$8, shows that there is some demand for lumber in general.

The box factories are very active, and it is reported that they are making a good margin of profit, which was hardly the case a year ago. There is a large box business here. With ordinary demand for boxes, there would be such an overstock made that nobody could hope to make much profit.

Southern woods, as poplar, yellow pine and cypress, sometimes a matter of indifference to this market, are in about as much quest as any other, and prices are very strong. The report, made some time ago, that no sort of lumber was at all dull, is still more true now than it has been before in several years, if ever.

BUFFALO, June 5th, 1899. J. C.

THE QUEBEC TIMBER TRADE.

The following rafts have been entered up to date at the office of Mr. Jas. Patton, Supervisor of Cullers, Quebec: The Calvin Co., Ltd., at sundry coves, oak, elm, pine, etc.; Sheppard & Co., at Cape Rouge, pine; J. Bur-stall & Co., at Montreal, birch; Frank Perry, at Sault, Ste. Marie, pine; M. Dymont & Son, at Thessalon river, pine; H. G. Buck, at Sharples Cove, Sillery, birch, ash, elm, etc.; Hale, Booth & Co., at Cape Rouge, pine; Hale & Booth, at Cape Rouge, pine; J. R. Booth, at Dohell's Cove, Sillery, pine; A. Sharples, at Sharples' Cove, Sillery, elm; N. McIntyre, at Union Cove, elm; Booth & Shannon, at Cape Rouge, pine; Hale & Booth, at Montreal, pine; J. R. Booth, at Montreal, pine; H. Raney, at Dohell's, Lower Sillery, ash, pine, etc.; St. Anthony Lumber Co., at Montreal, birch, ash, maple, etc.

A comparative statement of timber measured and culled at Quebec up to June 6th is as follows:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Waney white pine, cu. feet	258,133	189,332	406,135
White pine, cu. feet	783	107,073	21,119
Red pine, cu. feet	26	8,025	69,453
Oak, cu. feet	305,025	259,701	90,841
Elm, cu. feet	170,976	115,267	116,412
Ash, cu. feet	21,509	18,267	14,204
Butternut, cu. feet		795	60
Birch and maple, cu. feet	139,171	95,549	200,925

The planing mill of Hughes & Long at Brandon, Man., was totally destroyed by fire recently.

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SHIPPING MATTERS.

Charters are announced as follows: Str. Lauban, West Bay, N. S., to w. c. England, deals, 445; bark Maria Madie, Miramichi, N. B., to Las Palmas, Canary Islands, 64 francs; Gloriana, Pugwash, N. S., to Manchester, deals, 455; bark Strahmuir, St. John, N. B., to c. c. Ireland, 478 6d; bark Lansfield, Pen-sacola to Rio Janerio, timber, \$14; Jeronea, St. John, N. B., to w. c. England, 455; schr. Blomidon, Hantsport or Annapolis, N. S., to Cape de Verde islands, lumber, \$8; bark Thomas, 807 tons, St. John, N. B., to Cardiff or Newport, deals 465 3d.

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