

to their stock, and apparently anticipate an early spring trade. British Columbia manufacturers report a steady demand for all grades of lumber, with prices more satisfactory than they have been for some years. Considerable shipments are being made to Australia and China, and it is said that the Oriental steamers have their entire capacity for some time to come spoken for. It is announced that the consolidation of lumber interests in the Boundary district of the Kootenay has been effected, through the efforts of Mr. G. O. Buchanan. The mills and limits represented are said to be valued at one million dollars, although a report states that one or two prominent concerns have refused to become identified with the combine.

UNITED STATES.

The dealers at eastern wholesale centres are taking in their last cargoes. Naturally some attention has been given to the stocks available for the winter trade, particularly as there are excellent prospects for an active demand during the winter for nearly all classes of stock. The stock of good lumber is on the whole of average size, perhaps sufficient to carry dealers through the winter. This cannot be said of the lower grades, as it is generally admitted that a famine in cheap lumber is an assured thing. Coarse lumber at Buffalo and Tonawanda is at a premium, and the demand is reported to be growing daily. Several cargoes of mill culls have been received at Tonawanda and disposed of at the price of \$15.50 and \$16 on the dock, to be shipped direct from the boat. Box and No. 3 barn are likewise scarce. Pine prices in all grades are being firmly maintained. At Albany three inch uppers are selling at \$70, and one to two inch at \$55. Box boards bring \$18 to \$20, and No. 1 barn, 1 x 12, \$25 to \$27. The foreign trade in pine is rather quiet with the exception of West Indian business. Prices on West Indian shippers are \$22 for 12 inch rough and \$24 for dressed. Spruce maintains its strong position, dealers holding firmly to list prices.

No further advance in hardwood prices is reported, but as the season advances greater difficulty is found in purchasing stock. There has been a slight increase in the demand for birch, and white and black ash is also very scarce, manufacturing industries purchasing it as fast as it is received in the market.

FOREIGN.

The recent quotations from Great Britain show that pine and spruce deals have considerably advanced of late. Broad first quality pine deals are selling at Glasgow at £24 to £27; second quality, 11 inch and up, at £16 to £19; third quality at £11 to £12, and fourth quality at £8 5s to £8 10s. First quality pine sidings bring £18 to £21. The quotations for Quebec spruce deals at London are: First quality, £9 to £11 10s; second quality, £8 10s to £9; third quality £8 to £8 10s; fourth quality, £7 10s to £8. New Brunswick spruce deals realize £7 15s to £8 10s. Oak timber sells at Glasgow at 25 7d to 35 4d per cubic foot, elm at 25 to 25 9d, birch at from 15 7d to 25, and ash at about 25.

The Alden Saw and Grist Mill at South Roston, Que., owned by E. Bradford, of Granby, was destroyed by fire last week. The loss is \$2,000, with no insurance.

THE SHINGLE AND LATH MARKET.

The shingle market throughout the United States is one of great strength. The receipts of red cedar shingles have not been large and there is but a small stock in the hands of dealers. Hemlock shingles appear to be out of the market, and there is only a limited supply of white cedars. Coming to white pine, the reports are that manufacturers are practically sold out, while the stocks held by dealers are much below the average. In view of the above conditions, there is reason to expect a further advance in the price of shingles before spring, notwithstanding that best 18 inch pine now brings \$4 in the Buffalo market.

The shortage in lath is, we believe, unprecedented. The American Lumberman reviews the lath situation as follows:

"It was only a few months ago that lath sold at a price which hardly covered a handling bill, to say nothing of the cost of manufacture. Today dry No. 1 white pine lath bring at wholesale from \$4.50 to \$5 a thousand, and the supply is not equal to the demand. There has been an advance of over 100 per cent. in the selling price, with no prospect of much lower prices in the near future.

"The lath market this season has been a peculiar one. A great many wholesale dealers argued that because the shingle trade was comparatively dull there was, perhaps, less than the usual amount of small building throughout the country, and it is undoubtedly true that much of the activity in the lumber business has been due to the manufacturing demand and the large amount of factory buildings constructed. It does not appear, therefore, that the strength of the lath market is due so much to unusual demand as it is to other causes. We may assume, however, that owing to the condition of the iron market metal lathing is not used as extensively this season as it has been for several years past, and this undoubtedly has had some effect upon the lath market, though the chief element of strength this year is a supply that is below normal for an average building season.

"Accurate figures as to the lath production of northern mills for a period of years are not available, but sufficient information is at hand to indicate that there has been a steady decline in the output since 1892. It is true that the cut last year was slightly heavier than in 1897, but the decline in production for the seven-year period named has been approximately 50 per cent. In former years practically all of the slabs went into lath, but of late much of this material has been utilized for other by-products, while the introduction of improved methods and machinery has materially reduced the slab output of the average saw mill.

"These are some of the reasons for high prices in the lath market, and were the only dependence of the future upon white pine lath it is not likely that the prices would be much lower. But already the situation has brought about a greatly increased use of hemlock, cypress and yellow pine lath. It is likely that values will remain firm during the winter, but hardly probable that the present basis of prices will be maintained through another building season. This seems to be the universal opinion among manufacturers and wholesale dealers, and probably is the correct one. At any rate, lath of every kind are considered mighty good property, and no one is worrying about not being able to dispose of the stock on hand at present prices."

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The city of Toronto invites tenders up to Monday, December 4th, for the annual supply of lumber.

A. C. and C. W. Elderkin, of Advocate Harbor, N.S., expect to take out 5,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

John Charlton, of Lynedoch, Ont., is reported to have recently purchased 10,000,000 feet of logs on the Georgian Bay.

Murdo Buchanan, of Springhill, Que., has taken a contract from T. V. Reed to get out 2,000,000 feet of logs on Black river.

W. W. Carter, of Fesserton, Ont., has purchased timber limits in the neighborhood of Spanish river and is operating thereon this winter.

Pugsley Bros., of Parrishoro, N. S., have purchased a new property in Gleggarry county, where they expect to cut 3,000,000 feet of deals.

By the breaking of a boom across the north forks of the Kettle river, about two miles above Grand Forks, B. C., 1,250,

000 feet of saw logs were released. They were the property of the Granby Smelter Company.

Edwin Casey, of Bay Verte, Cumberland county, has contracted to supply Dickie's mills at Lower Stewiacke, N. S., with 2,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

J. D. Draper has just purchased 2,000,000 feet of log run lumber, cut from Canadian stock, from Pitts & Company, of Bay City, for Wm. Schuette & Co., of Saginaw.

Chas. Desmarais, of Hull, Que., has secured the contract to furnish 1,500 cedar posts, 35 feet long, for the extension of the Montmorency & Charlevoix railway.

Walter Steeves, of Stevescote, and Manning Steeves, of Albert county, N. B., have purchased a timber property near Liverpool, N. S., and will commence operations thereon at once.

According to reports, 30,000,000 feet of No. 4 and No. 5 boards of next season's production at Duluth, Minn., have been contracted for. The No. 4 boards were sold at about \$11, and the No. 5 at \$6.50 to \$7.

Duffy & Company, of Hillsboro, N. B., have purchased a tract of timber land along the Liverpool river in Nova Scotia. They are setting up a rotary mill, and will saw spruce deals for the British market.

D. J. McDougall, of Carleton Place, has moved his saw mill to the Muirhead property, on the sixth line of Beckwith township, where he has secured a contract to manufacture into lumber the birch timber on nearly 200 acres of land.

Hilyard Bros. are building a new saw mill near Rusiagornish Station, Sunbury county, N. B., which will be in operation shortly. They expect to cut 2,500,000 feet of lumber during the coming winter, which will be shipped by rail to St. John.

J. & T. Conlon, of Little Current, Ont., have closed negotiations with Munro & Ebert to saw all the logs taken out by the latter firm in Nairn township this winter. Messrs. Conlon will also take out sufficient timber to keep their shingle mill operating next season.

Robert Stewart, of Guelph, Ont., has just contracted with the Huntsville Lumber company for the purchase of 250,000 feet of hemlock. He has also closed a contract with the Victoria Harbor Lumber Company to cut for him immediately 175,000 feet of pine bill stuff.

The following timber limits were sold at the Crown Lands office, Fredericton, N. B., last week. Two miles at Code Branch, Kent county, to Thos. McWilliams at \$15 per mile; three miles at Shin creek, Sunbury county, to T. G. O'Connor at \$33.50 per mile; two and a half mile branch, head of New river, Charlotte county, to J. & L. B. Knight, at upset price; two miles at head of Fork brook, to Tapley Bros., at upset price; two miles on Cannan river to A. West at upset price.

SHIPPING MATTERS.

It is said that a steamer has been chartered to load deals at St. John, N. B., in March next for west coast of England, at 46s 3d.

The ship Lennie Burrill has been chartered to load lumber at St. John, N. B., for the River Platte, at \$9.50. The steamer Mantinea is

booked to load deals at St. John for the west coast of England.

The first winter port steamer is due to sail from St. John, N. B., for Glasgow on November 23. The Montrose will sail for Liverpool on November 29th, the Manchester Commerce for Manchester on November 30th, the Sylvania for London on December 7th, the Glen Head for Belfast on December 9th, and the Dunmore Head for Dublin on December 20th.

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