

AUSTRALIA.

The Monthly Circular of Lord & Hughes timber brokers of Melbourne, dated Wednesday, 12th March, 1884, is as follows.

Our last report was under date of 13th Feb., since which we have to report lighter arrivals from the Baltic ports, and offerings not so heavy as previous month, with a further advance in Baltic deals and flooring. Oregon is also a little firmer, and prices slightly better and obtainable, while American shelling, in consequence of large arrivals, is not so firm; clear pine maintained its price, but not so eagerly sought after; slates also remain in good demand at about previous rates.

Trade from the yards continues exceptionally good and likely to remain so, as the building trade is very active, and large sales of building are being weekly made. We may confidently look to a continuance of activity.

The arrivals have been—Leviathan, from Laurvig, with red and white deals and flooring; Aristos, from Christiania, Sir Jamsotjoo Family and Rollo, from Frederickstadt, with flooring; Hugo, from Gefle, Wanlock, from Sodorham, with deal; Wesor, from Quebec, with clear pine and spruce; Jeremiah Thompson, from Burrard Inlet, with Oregon timber, laths and pickets; Agata, from Boston, with clear pine, white pine, shelving, T. & G. ceiling, laths, slates, and plaster; Glengoil, Gulf of St. Vincent, Aviomoro, Montross, Oanduars, British Envoy, Aigburth, Glesinavis, and Catania, from Great Britain, with flooring, slates, lead, galvanized iron, cement and plaster; Waitemata, Vision, Robin Hood, Darcy Pratt, and Grassmere, from Kaipara; Rockhampton, from Mercury Bay, with Kauri pine; Cheviot and Wendouree, from Sydney, with cedar; Lyca-moon and Nemesis, from Sydney, with slates.

RED DEALS.—Imports: 624 standard, 9,813 pieces. The arrivals have been Leviathan, from Laurvig, Hugo, from Gefle, Wanlock, from Sodorham, and Rolo from Frederickstadt. On the 29th ulto., the cargo ex Gurli was offered at auction, resulting in the quitance of nearly the whole of the cargo, DDD 11x3 realising 5½d., 9x3 5½d. to 5½d., 7x3 5½d. to 5½d., 7x2½ 5½d. to 5½d. at per running foot of 9x3. Sales have also been made of small parcels ex Zoila Einer Thambarskolver, and Loch Katrine.

SPRUCE DEALS.—Imports: 20,074 pieces. The arrivals have been Wesor, from Quebec, with spruce; Leviathan, from Laurvig, with Baltic white. On the 29th ulto. the spruce deals ex Halgerd, were offered at auction, but only a portion was sold.

OREGON TIMBER.—Imports: 1,079,949 feet super. This line arrived in the Jeremiah Thompson, from Burrard's Inlet, and was sold on 4th inst. at prices ranging from £6 15s. to £8 2s. 6d., and the balance ex Chrysolite, at £8 2s. 6d.

LUMBER. Imports. Clear pine, 142,583 feet super; white pine shelving, 93,129 feet super; T. and G. ceiling, 16,013 feet super. The arrivals have been Agata, from Boston, and Wesor from Quebec. The parcel ex Agata is advertised for sale on 14th inst. Sales by auction have been of clear pine and ceiling, ex Blackadder, and balance of shelving ex Paramita, prices showing a decline on last month's rates.

PITCH PINE.—Imports Nil. Auction sales: Nil. REDWOOD.—Imports. Nil. The only sale by auction has been balance of shipment ex Remisio, at a decline on previous rates.

FLOORING AND WEATHERBOARDS.—Imports: 4,322,440 feet lineal. The arrivals have been Leviathan, from Laurvig, Sir Jamsotjoo Family and Rollo, from Frederickstadt; and Aristos, from Christiania. The cargo ex Sir Jamsotjoo Family is advertised for sale on 14th inst. Sales by auction have been cargoes ex Electra, Einar Thambarskolver, and small lines ex Adele and Sabine, Drumblair, Loch Katrine, Birth of Clyde, and Loch Ness, the following being prices realized:—Red, 6x1½, 12s. 3d. to 11s. 6d.; 6x¾, 9s. 3d. to 9s.; 6x¾, 5s. 9d. to 6x¾, 5s. to 4s. 9d.; white, 6x1½, 9s. 9d. to 9s. 6d.; 6x¾, 7s. 9d.; 6x¾, 5s. 9d. to 5s. 6d.; 6x¾, 5s. to 4s. 9d.; 4-out weatherboards, 7s. to 6s. 9d. These prices show an advance on last month's rates.

KAURI PINE.—Imports: 1,411,119 feet super. The arrivals have been Waitemata, Vision,

Robin Hood, Darcy Pratt, Grassmere, and Rockhampton. Sales by auction have been made ex Vision, Grassmere, Darcy Pratt, Waitemata, and Palace, sawn logs realising 14s. 9d. to 13s. 6d., and fitches, 16s. 6d. to 13s.

CEDAR.—Imports: 10,400 feet super. This arrived ex steamers from Sydney. Sales by auction have been made of small parcels ex Sydney steamers, at 4s to 20s.

RED AND WHITE PINE (Colonial).—Imports: Nil. Auction sales: Nil. DOORS.—Imports: Nil.

LATHS AND PICKETS.—Imports. Laths, 3, 385 bundles; Pickets, 1,908 bundles. Sales by auction have been made of Oregon Laths, 4½-foot, at 37s. to 36s. 6d.; spruce, 4½-foot, 34s. 6d.; Baltic, 4½-foot, 25s. 6d. to 24s. 6d.; 4-foot, 20s. 6d. Pickets, Oregon, 4½-foot, at £7 10s.; 6-foot, at £8 10s.; spruce, 4½-foot, at £6 15s.

SLATES.—Imports: 300,205 pieces. There have been no sales by auction during the month to report. Privately, a good demand exists at about last month's rates.

PLASTER.—Imports: 120 barrels. There have been no sales by auction during the month.

CEMENT.—Imports: 2,800 barrels. The arrivals continue light and the market bare. Sales privately have been made of best brands at 16s. 6d. to 16s. Auction sales: Nil.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Imports: 847 tons. Sales by auction have been made of small lines. Privately, best brands realised £20; inferior, £10 to £10 10s.

HARDWOOD.—Auction sales—29th February.—Ex Southern Cross, 41 pieces 12x8 hardwood, at 7s. 6d. per 100 feet super.

PALINGS.—Imports: Nil. Auction sales: Nil.

EXPLANATION.—Red deals and spruce deals are sold at per foot of 9x3; T. and G. flooring at per 1,000 feet running; Oregon timber, Redwood, clear pine, shelving and ceiling, per 1,000 feet super; Kauri pine and cedar logs at per 100 feet super; laths, pickets, and slates at per 1,000 pieces.

THE TRADE OF ARCHANGEL.

The Norwegian and Swedish General Consul in Archangel in his report writes as follows:—The awkward roads from Archangel to the interior prevent the possibility of import trade. The ships arrive, therefore, with few exceptions, in ballast, which, of course, in a substantial degree, increases the outward freights, and when to this is added that nothing has been done to ease the entrance into the port (the River Dwina cannot be navigated by vessels drawing more than 14 ft.), also that the harbour dues are unproportionately high, it is not difficult to understand the depression under which the trade of the place at present suffers. On account of these circumstances the prospects are poor, and it has also been seen that several trade houses, during the last year, partly have dissolved business, and partly have limited it to timber and other forest productions, which it seems will soon be the only export goods on which the district can depend.

Various circumstances—high prices of timber, severe constant conditions for purchase in the State forests, and recently great accidental fires at several timber yards—have, during the past year, restricted the development of the trade of the district, and especially of the Archangel timber trade. These difficulties appear now, in a great measure, to have been overcome, and, at the same time, the exporters have begun to see the necessity of using the machines of the day to obtain cheaper labour and better use of the timber, and considering the position of the export trade as a whole, with the great wealth of the forests of the country and the remarkable quality of the timber, a considerable development of the timber trade of the district may certainly be expected. The quantity coming for shipment this year will, it is presumed, amount to about 45,000 St. Petersburg standards.

QUEBEC'S FOREST PRODUCTS.

In the course of a speech in the Quebec Legislative Assembly the Hon. George Irvine, Q. C., expressed a very dispirited opinion about the great industry of this province—the timber trade. It was in a very bad way now, according to the honorable gentleman, and the prospects

for the immediate future were by no means bright. It was not from an political motive, he declared, that he said this; he was simply stating a fact a fact which had considerable importance for himself—as a warning to the Government not to depend very much on the probable revenue from the produce of the forests.

Enquiries by our representative in Quebec show that Mr. Irvine's opinion, gloomy as it is is not disputed by those most able to judge. Among other signs is the determination of Messrs. G. B. Hall & Co., to close down their famous Montmorency mills this season—for the first time, we believe, since the mills have been in existence. In connection with this matter it may be as well to state in few words the truth about Mr. Senecal's transactions with the Hall estate. Mr. Senecal paid the first instalment—\$250,000—of the purchase money, and he has not yet paid the second instalment. But the contract has not fallen through on that account; the property really belongs to Mr. Senecal at the present moment.

The season having now fairly opened, we give, for the information of our readers, a review of the position and prospects of the timber trade; a review representing the opinions of some of the leading timber merchants in the city of Quebec.

Judging of the present position of the trade it is desirable to consider the two staple articles, namely, timber in the shape of what is commonly known as square and wancy timber, and timber sawn up generally in the form of deals three inches thick. The annual consumption of the former for several years past has been falling off, being last year and this winter less than perhaps it has ever been recorded before. The present stock of square white pine is about seven and a half million feet; and although this is not more than about half the average stock of from seven to ten years ago, it appears to be far in excess of what the market is likely to require. In wancy pine the stock is rather larger than an average, but the demand for this wood is more uniform than for the square timber, as it is used more generally throughout Great Britain for pattern making and joinery purposes. The production during the past winter of square pine will probably be less than six million feet. This, again, is much under the average production of from five to ten years ago, it being then about eleven million. Although the production is so much reduced, still it is likely to be far in excess of any demand that will arise, and it is seen every day that this trade is gradually dying away from Quebec. The causes for this are the increased production and cheapness of pitch pine, and the quantity formerly taken not being required for the purpose for which this square wood was used in England, iron beams, iron decks for ships, and cheaper woods, being substituted for our yellow pine.

In hardwoods a similar disappointing view has to be taken of the future of the trade. The opening of railways in Virginia, Tennessee, and other Southern states has given facilities for bringing the oak from the hill countries of those States, sawn out into dimension timber as required by the large consuming manufacturers in England, chiefly for waggon building, at prices far under what the Western States oak can be brought in the log to Quebec and shipped at. This feature this winter has been more felt than previously, because the manufacturers have improved so much in the production of these oak scantlings that they now answer the requirements of the most particular railway companies in England. As far as Canada is concerned, the oak is entirely cut away.

Another description of square timber, elm, is becoming more difficult to get, and the price has gone up so high as to preclude it from being used, excepting where it is especially provided for.

The stave trade of Quebec is rapidly going away, it being impossible to compete with the staves produced at a much lower cost on the Mississippi, and shipped from New Orleans in vast quantities, being carried across the Atlantic by the steamers at donnage rates, at much below the cost at which they can be shipped by sailing vessels from the St. Lawrence.

These are the chief features of the trade of Quebec, excepting as regards pine and spruce deals. Of the latter, the stimulated production in New Brunswick has completely closed some of the mills in Canada and reduced the production of the others. But this is probably only temporary and the losses that were made on the shipments of spruce deals from New Brunswick last year has already had its effect in reducing the production this winter by from 50 to 60 per cent. and there is no doubt that our spruce forests in Canada in a few years will increase very much in value.

In pine deals the trade is healthy, and the consumption in England very large, but the production has been in excess of the demand, and the shipments on shippers' account last year were in excess of what the market could deal with in England, and the consequence was serious loss to those who consigned to England. But this is likely to remedy itself very quickly, as the production this winter will be certainly from 50 to 60 per cent. less than last year.—*Montreal Witness.*

Circular Saws.

The *Lumber World* says the Mechanics Association of Muhlhausen, in Germany, in their last annual report take a very decided ground against the use of circular saws, and advocate their abolition entirely wherever such action is possible. They base their conclusions upon the reasons that the use of circular saws involves more danger to the operators, that they require more power and waste more wood, and that their only advantage consists in a price smaller than that of band saws. The Germans use at the present day among their cabinet-makers carpenters and joiners, thirteen different varieties of saws, each of which has its own peculiar size of the teeth to each other. How important the thin saw blade is, not only as a means to save power, but also as a means to save wood, can be seen from the following. A log of walnut 4 metres long and 1 metre in diameter, cut into 20 pieces by the new horizontal saw frame saves 30 millimetres of wood when compared with the cutting of the old-fashioned vertical saws. This is equal to a profit of \$9 to \$12. For Germany, where annually 100,000 cubic metres of this wood is used in the various industries, this wood represents a saving of \$37,000 to \$50,000. The greatest enemies of saws are the particles and pieces of iron found in woods; these are often driven in some form into young trees, and succeeding growth covers them up entirely. A curious collection of such ingrown iron particles was recently exhibited in Germany. It had been obtained from America, Prussia, Germany, Spain, and other countries, and exhibited the queerest forms of wooden formation covering particles of iron of various shapes and sizes, whose presence was revealed only by a breaking of the teeth of the saw, and which without the cutting would have remained invisible to the human eye.

Ships for the Quebec Trade.

The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* says:—An important shipping and commercial venture has been, or is being floated, in Greenock for the purpose of acquiring and sailing a number of wooden vessels in the Quebec timber trade. The capital, which has been fixed at £30,000 in 300 shares of £100 each, has been, we believe, pretty nearly subscribed, although in the meantime it is not intended to call up more than £75 or £80 per share. The name of the company is "The Clyde and St. Lawrence Shipping Co.," limited, and one of the main features of the company will be that, as a rule, insurance with underwriters will not be effected upon its ships, but the company will lay aside its own insurance funds. It only remains to be added that the promoters of the company are long established Clyde ship owners, and have had a long-extended experience in the management of ships in the lumber trade.

DANGER SIGNALS.—Reader, if you are troubled with pain, weakness, weariness and a dragging feeling in the small of the back, with thick, high colored, or bloody urine, then you have alarming signals of danger, and should resort to Burdock Blood Bitters, the grand kidney regulator and blood and cleansing tonic.