THE SPRUCE SITUATION.

A Canadian correspondent of the Timber News comments as follows:

The stocks of logs and deals wintered over in Capada will be larger than usual, but that is sure to be counterbalanced by a considerable reduction in the winter operations in the woods. It is just possible that a drop in freights to last winter's level, say to 25%, will encourage liner consignments, as holders will doubtless be inclined to realize so long as they can see a fair margin, and if such consignments come tumbling in again we may say farewell to any prospects of an early improvement in values. It is not, however, sure that freights will come down to such a low level, and the liners to-day are quite firm at from 30s. to 32s. 6d. Besides that, the bulk of the stocks available for shipment are in strong hands, and are not likely to be shipped unless a reasonable margin seems assured.

Some effort is being made by the operators in the Maritime Provinces to form a combination to resist the high wages demanded, which are, they consider, above an equitable point, and due to the artificial influence of the trade unions, but there is a want of unanimity among the manufacturers, which may prove fatal to any advantageous results.

It seems quite certain that the supply of spruce deals during the coming season is going to fall short of an average, but as the early demand is likely to be fully met from stocks existing on our side, any shortage is not likely to be fully appreciated until well on in the season. In any case we may look to some improvement in prices, as present figures are unprofitable to the shippers, who are steadfastly refusing to accept business at such a level.

Most of the wintering stocks in St. John have recently changed hands at improved figures, and are now held by the shippers. It is expected that all the mills in that district will shut down this winter, and consequently there will be no new cut on the market until the spring. The produc_ tion of the portable mills during the winter is going to be greatly curtailed, and unless a considerable advancement in price takes place there will be no inducement to increase these operations.

During the past year a good trade has been done in spruc- ', the States and to South America, ant is confidently anticipated that the coming season will see equally active markets in those quarters. Hemlock will be got out this winter in reduced quantities, as the demand has been unsatisfactory.

CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

From St. John, N. B.:—Steamer Lake Erie, for Liverpool, 174,572 ft. spruce deals, 7,191 ft. spruce ends, 7,182 ft. scantling, 64,301 ft. birch deals, 3,984 ft. birch scantling, 534 ft. birch ends, 800 doors, 532 pcs. oak lumber, 528 pcs. timber. Schooner Ethel B. Sumner, for New Rochelle, N. Y., 255,000 cedar shingles, 1,715,400 laths. Schooner Perris A. Colwell, for City Island, 196,392 ft. deals, 1.899,700 laths. Steamer Parisian, for Liverpool, 73,346 ft. spruce deals, 2,616 ft. spruce scantling, 56,610 ft. birch plank, 3,650 ft. birch ends. Schooner Bessie Parker, for Trinidad, Port of Spain, 354,591 ft. pine boards. Schooner F. & E. Givan, for Boston, 111,365 ft. spruce boards. From St. John, N. B. :-Steamer Lake

Givan, for Boston, 111,365 ft. spruce boards.

From Tusket Wedge, N.S.:—Bark Launberga, for Buenos Ayres, 1.093,000 ft. mixed lumber. Norwegian bark Nora, for Sauta Blanco, 980 ft. mixed lumber.

From Halifax, N. S.:—Steamer St. John City, for London, 160,696 ft. spruce deals, value \$2,088, 79,652 ft. hemlock deals, value \$716, by Furness, Withy & Co., agents. Steamer Parisian, for Liverpool, 12,879 ft. birch squares, value \$400, by S. Cunard & Co., agents. Steamer Demara, for Liverpool, 211,822 ft. spruce deals, value \$2,753, by Furness, Withy & Co., agents. Steamer Buenos Ayrean, for Glasgow, 27,268 ft. pine lumber, value \$436, by S. Cunard & Co., agents. Steamer Hilda C., for Cuba, 2,400 ft. spruce lumber, value \$348, by C. F. Longley & Co., agents. Leah A. Whidden, for Demerara, 223,128 ft. pine lumber, value \$3,346, by C. F. Longley & Co.,

agents. Steamer Veritas, for Jamaica, 15,000 ft. spruce lumber, value \$169, by A. G. Jones & Co., agents. Schooner Nimrod, for Cuba, 27,268 ft. pine lümber, value \$436, by C. F. Longley & Co., agents. Schooner Hebe, for Antwerp, 1,319,580 ft. spruce lumber, value \$11,128.

BRITISH LUMBER PRICES.

Canadian lumber brought the following prices at an auction sale held by Churchili & Sim, London, England, on December

PINE.—Ex. Hampstead, from Montreal

PINE.—Ex. Hampstead, from Montreal

9 ft. 3 x 12-15 in. 1st quality, £20 per
standard of 1,980 ft.

SPRUCE.—Ex. King David, from Montreal—15-16ft. 3x9 in. 3rd quality, £9. Ex.
Kydonia, from Amherst, N. S.—9-23 ft.
3 x 9 in. unassorted, £8 and £6 55; 9-23
ft. 3 x 8, £7 10s and £7 15s; 9-20 ft. 3x 7,
£7 10s; 9-23 ft. 3 x 6, £7 and £6 15s; 6-23
ft. 3 x 5, £6 5s and £6; 6-23 ft. 3 x 4,
£6.5s; 6-22 ft. 2 x 6-7, £6 10s; 6-22 ft.
2 x 5, £6 5s and £6: 6-16 ft. 2x 4, £6 15s.
Ex. Cunaxa, from West Bay, N. S.—6-23
ft. 3 x 5 in. 1st, 2nd and 3rd quality,
£6. Ex. Hektos, from Quebec—12-16 ft.
3 x 7-9 in. 4th quality, £7 10s.

BASSWOOD.—Ex. Milwaukee, from Quebec—2 logs, 15 and 17 in., 10d per cubic
foot.

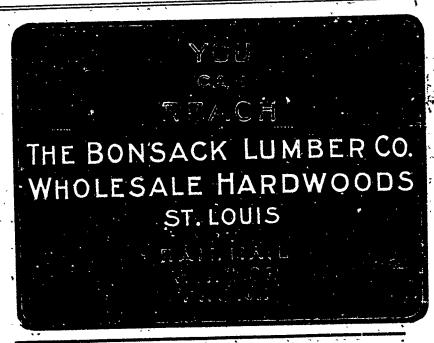
Actual Timper—Ex. Milwaukee, from

foot.

ASH TIMBER.—Ex. Milwaukee, from Montreal—29-32 ft., 13-17 in., 40s per load of 50 cubic ft.; 25-30 ft., 13-15 in.; 40s.

WALNUT TIMBER.—Ex. Obi, from Quebec—8-16 ft., 20-24 in., 38 6d per ft.; 8-14 ft. 17½-27¼ in., 38 7d; 8-19 ft., 15-19¼ in., 38 6d; 7-16 ft., 14½-19¾ in., 38 3d.

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