

## THE LUMBER TRADE.

## LUMBER OUTLOOK IN THE UNITED STATES.

The lumber product of 1899 is certain to be large. There will be no great increase in the output of white pine over last year, though probably some enlargement of the output will be effected, but hemlock will be produced on a much larger scale, spruce will more than hold its own, while yellow pine will be manufactured on a larger scale than ever before in the history of the business. The question of interest is as to whether this enlarged supply can be taken care of without affecting prices or producing any appreciable increase in the stock. It is on the whole doubtful if the increase in output will any more than keep pace with the increase of the demand, and the demand last year was great enough to cause a heavy diminution of stock at the end of the year as compared with the beginning. This is another argument for the general maintenance of values, though the distribution of the product as between the different competitive woods may lower prices of some of them.—American Lumberman.

## LUMBER TRADE NOTES.

North Carolina pine has advanced \$1 per thousand at the mills.

The market for shingles at Minneapolis remains steady at \$2.10 for Extra "A" red shingles.

Isaac Cockburn has been appointed secretary of the Western Retail Lumbermen's association, to succeed John Dick.

A report from Birtle says: MacArthur Bros.' drive has reached town and their mill yard presents a very busy scene just now.

Cypress is to some extent taking the place of white pine in the manufacture of doors in the south. This is owing partly to the scarcity of pine. These cypress doors are being sold at about the same price as No. 1 white pine doors.

The trade in poplar wood in the United States is very active and mills are unable to keep pace with the demand. Some mills are said to be sold so far ahead that it will take them the entire season to clean up orders in hand on some grades.

Famine prices are prevailing for some kinds of hardwood in nearby United States markets. Quarter sawed white oak is particularly scarce and manufacturers are offering very high prices for this wood. Thick, dry white ash is also practically out of the market. Maple flooring prices have advanced \$1 on clear, \$2 on common, and \$1 on factory flooring.

Dry hemlock lumber is exceedingly scarce in southern markets and prices are firm at about \$2 per thousand over last year's figures. The Michigan mill men have formed an association for the purpose of equalizing market conditions as far as possible. A price scale has been fixed on the basis of \$3 per thousand for short lengths and \$2 extra for each additional two feet. This is the price on the docks.

N. Lawl, of Winnipeg, who went to Ottawa as one of the delegation to confer with the government regarding the Douglas grain bill, returned last Sunday.

## THE IMPLEMENT TRADE

## THE TWINE MARKET.

The probable course of twine prices during the remainder of the season becomes more and more problematical as the weeks slip by. Conflicting stories regarding the positions of large jobbers are in circulation. Some of them are said to have reached the conclusion that their purchases are more than ample for their trade requirements, and it is known to be a fact that certain jobbers, as noted last week, are looking around for relief. On the other hand, it is equally well established that one large jobber has been trying for the past week to buy 100 tons of pure manilla, and had found but one concern from which he could obtain it, yet whose price was so high that a contract was out of the question. Another jobber is reported to have eagerly snapped up a block of 100 tons of standard which another jobber was willing to spare. It would seem from these incidents that some of the jobbers think they are loaded beyond their needs, while others are in the market for more. Manufacturers have asserted that if any weakness develops it will be among the wholesalers, who are frightened by the crop outlook. It is worthy of note, however, that the jobbers who are most likely to take harm are not the ones who bought twine at the lowest prices, hence it is reasonable to assume that they will defer any concessions in price until the last minute, before which time conditions indicative of a better out-come may arise.

It is a waiting game that the jobbers are now indulging in, not in the sense that they are indifferent to selling opportunities, but that they are watching developments closely in order that they may determine on the proper course to be pursued later. If any have applied the scalpel to a price schedule it has not yet appeared on the surface.

Manufacturers are fairly well sold up. Some cannot take on any more business for delivery earlier than July, and others could, to use their own language, "squeeze out a little in June." One large company has withdrawn entirely from the market, having sold all the twine they care to. If not all they can make. A careful summing up may effect a change later on.

Fiber is again weaker, sisal especially, having dropped back behind manilla, whereas it has endeavored for several weeks past to rank the other fiber in price. A dearth of business may have caused the manipulators of sisal hemp to bring it down from its lofty and inconsistent position as a bait to attract buyers. But fiber prices, if the manufacturers' diagnosis of the situation is correct, will cut no figure in regulating twine prices for the remainder of this season. According to several conservative twine makers there remains to be purchased very little hemp for this year's product, and the present weakness of the hemp market is expected to induce buying of stock for 1900. These men are equally positive that the jobbers hold the key to the situation as far as future prices of twine are concerned.

Prices f.o.b. Chicago remain as follows:

Sisal... .. 9 1-2  
Standard... .. 9 1-2  
Manilla (600-foot)... .. 10 1-2  
Pure manilla... .. 11

Car lots, 1-4 cent less. Five ton lots, 1-8c less. Fall terms.—Farm Implement News, May 11.

## IMPLEMENT TRADE NOTES.

The first association of agricultural implement dealers ever formed in England, has just completed its organization.

American hemp is reported higher, an advance of 15 cents per hundred having occurred last week. Producers now realize \$5.15 per 100 lbs.

Hay press manufacturers held a meeting in Chicago on May 11th to consider an advance in prices. The extent of the proposed advance is not yet known.

The consolidation of United States plow manufacturing interests is making progress. At a meeting held in Chicago last week the plans of organization were advanced a stage. Only a section of the manufacturing interests will be in the trust. The capital stock is to be \$50,000,000.

At a meeting of manufacturers held in Chicago last Wednesday advances were made in the prices of corn-shell-ers, feed-mills and cider mills. The advances amount to from 10 to 15 per cent.

At a meeting of the Northwestern Plow Association of the United States held in Chicago on May 8, it was decided to make an advance of 15 per cent in the price of all kinds of plows. Some manufacturing concerns were in favor of making the advance 20 to 25 per cent, but the majority thought that too radical a change to make at one time. The resolution providing for the advance gives these concerns the option of adding more than 15 per cent if they want to, but does not make it compulsory. Increased cost of material is the reason assigned for the advance. Cultivators, harrows and corn planters are also affected by the advance.

## Inspection of Hides.

A deputation of tanners recently waited on the Ontario government and asked that the inspection of hides be made compulsory at the principal accumulating markets. Winnipeg was one of the points included in the proposal. A bill for the compulsory inspection of hides was introduced in parliament a year ago, it will be remembered, but it was withdrawn later. The proposed act would not, it is presumed, affect the buying of hides in country markets. Dealers will no doubt be left at liberty to buy in any way they like in the country. The compulsory inspection, if it goes into effect, would apply to the handling of hides in accumulating markets. Of course if inspection is made compulsory buyers would likely be more careful about taking hides in the country on a flat rate basis.

The June number of The Delineator is called the early summer number and combines an immense amount of authoritative and applicable advice as to what is newest and most beautiful in the world of fashion—including special illustrations of bridal costumes—with a profusion of sparkling literary features, social, household and departmental hints and suggestions and fancy work detail. The Delineator Publishing Co., Toronto.

A change is announced in the firm of Gowans, Kent & Company, crockery and glassware, Toronto. Gowans, the senior member of the firm, has retired, and William Peterkin and Watson McClain have been admitted as partners.