

Market Reports.

MONTREAL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Dec. 23rd.—In looking back on the lumber trade of Montreal for the past year we find that a very fair amount of business has been done, but with so much competition and high rates of wages, it is doubtful if much money has been made. It is difficult to speculate on the prospects of the lumber trade for the incoming year, but from all appearances prices are likely to rule high in the early part of the year, as stocks are low, and there is little prospect of their being replenished for some time to come. The mills are working full time, and although the demand is only moderate, brisker times are looked for at the opening of the New Year. We advance our outside quotations for pine cull deals and pine mill culls, and with these exceptions our quotations are unchanged. The weather in this region is much against work in the shanties, snow being much wanted to enable them to get their timber out of the bush. We quote:—

Pine, 1st quality, 2 M.	\$32 00	\$40 00
Pine, 2nd " " M.	18 00	\$24 00
Pine, shipping culls, 2 M.	12 00	\$15 00
Pine, cull deals, 2 M.	8 00	\$12 00
Pine, mill culls, 2 M.	5 00	8 00
Spruce, 2 M.	8 00	\$10 00
Hemlock, 2 M.	8 00	\$10 00
Ash, run of long culls out, 2 M.	16 00	\$18 00
Bass, 2 M.	14 00	\$16 00
Oak, 2 M.	35 00	\$45 00
Birch, 2 M.	17 00	\$20 00
Hard Maple, 2 M.	18 00	\$25 00
Lath, 2 M.	1 25	1 35
Shingles, 1st, 2 M.	3 00	4 00
Shingles, 2nd, 2 M.	2 00	3 00

CORNWOOD.—The market is still dull and the soft weather we are having proves detrimental to business. Prices are steady and unchanged, and there is very little prospect of any advance, rather otherwise, as stocks are pretty heavy, and the Q. A. & O. Railway is bringing in a large quantity of wood, but the quality is inferior to that received in summer by boats. We continue to quote prices at the railway depot, ex cartage:—

Long Maple.	\$6 50
Short " "	6 00
Long Birch.	6 00
Short " "	5 50
Long Beech.	5 50
Short " "	5 00
Long Tamarack.	4 50
Short " "	4 40

TORONTO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Dec. 24th.—The mild weather during the present month has enabled builders to prosecute their work with as much vigor as at any time during the present season, and lumber dealers have therefore had a good time generally, and few complaints are heard from any of the dealers, except on the score of deficiency of bill stuff, which is being felt more each day that passes over, and will be more severely felt long ere spring reaches us, and my firm conviction is that bill stuff must advance at least one dollar per M. above present figures. For many years past bill lumber has ruled so low as to leave but little margin to the manufacturer, and the result has been that mill men have turned their attention more to the cutting of bill lumber, leaving the manufacture of dimension stuff to those whose pine is specially adapted to that purpose, and the consequence is that we now have a famine in that class of lumber, and builders must pay more for such material in the future if they expect to induce mill men to turn their attention to the cutting of bill lumber. The demand for lath is unabated and retailers readily obtain \$1.75 to \$1.80 per M., carload lots command ready sale at \$1.50 to \$1.60, according to width and quality, but should severe frost set in, prices may recede somewhat. Considerable lumber of the better grades has been shipped by rail to Buffalo and other points during the last two weeks, a good class of uppers realizing \$32 to \$33 per M. on car here, but as the holiday season is now at hand we may look for a quiet time for two weeks to come, and should the weather continue mild we may then look for considerable activity in lumber matters, and should the remainder of the winter prove favorable for logging purposes, a large trade will be done next summer both over our docks and on the local market.

All wood working machinery in the different

factories here are being worked to their fullest capacity, large quantities of doors and sashes being manufactured for different points in Manitoba, and there seems no diminution in the number of houses in course of erection, and yet ready sale is found for them as fast as finished, so that viewing the prospects for the lumber trade next season, there is little room for doubt as to a highly successful year.

Prices at the different yards remain much the same as when I last wrote to you, but the figures asked by wholesale men would seem to warrant a considerable advance on all grades of lumber.

QUOTATIONS.	
Mill cull boards and scantling.	\$ 9 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.	11 00
Stocks.	13 00
Scantling and joist, up to 10 ft.	12 00
" " " 10 ft. to 12 ft.	13 00
" " " 12 ft. to 14 ft.	13 50
" " " 14 ft. to 16 ft.	14 00
" " " 16 ft. to 18 ft.	14 50
" " " 18 ft. to 20 ft.	15 50
Scantling and joist, up to 20 ft.	16 00
" " " 20 ft. to 22 ft.	18 00
" " " 22 ft. to 24 ft.	19 00
" " " 24 ft. to 26 ft.	20 00
" " " 26 ft. to 28 ft.	23 00
" " " 28 ft. to 30 ft.	25 00
" " " 30 ft. to 32 ft.	30 00
Cutting up planks to dry.	18 00
boards.	10 00
Sound dressing stocks.	15 00
Picks Am Inspection.	26 00
Three uppers, Am. Inspection.	34 00
B. M.	
14-inch flooring, dressed.	28 00
" " " rough.	14 00
" " " dressed.	24 00
" " " undressed.	14 00
" " " dressed.	20 00
" " " undressed.	15 00
Beaded Sheeting, dressed.	20 00
Clapboarding, dressed.	12 50
XXX sawn shingles, 2 M.	3 80
XX sawn shingles.	2 75
Sawn lath.	1 75

LONDON, ONT.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Dec. 22.—It was my intention to furnish you in this letter with a data of the consumption of lumber in this city for the past year, but I find it will be better to wait a week or two, when the merchants will be through with their stock-taking, and I shall then be enabled to give a more accurate statement. So that you may look out for it in my next.

The weather in this section is almost as open as spring, and the products of last year's lumbering in all our particular bases of supply are getting pretty well run out, consequently a strong feeling prevails here that unless we have at least a short season of a good old-fashioned winter, lumber in the spring will be very scarce and as a result much higher.

One man up on the London, Huron & Bruce Road, who got out over 300,000 feet last winter, has cleared out every stick, and another who got out 2,000,000 feet has very little left, and is holding. This, however, is the general cry, all stocks are getting very low, and though I cannot record higher figures just now, the tendency is very much in that direction.

To-night the tenders for the new block of wholesale stores are to be handed in, and I shall know in a day or two in what direction the lumber contract has been let.

At this date I cannot quote higher figures, so that my last will be reliable quotations for this letter. These prices, however, are understood to be bottom cash figures.

QUOTATIONS.	
Mill cull boards and scantling.	\$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.	11 00
Stocks.	13 00
Common boards, promiscuous widths.	13 00
Scantling and joist, up to 10 ft.	14 00
" " " 10 ft. to 12 ft.	14 50
" " " 12 ft. to 14 ft.	15 50
" " " 14 ft. to 16 ft.	16 50
" " " 16 ft. to 18 ft.	18 00
Common stocks.	14 00
Common 2 in. plank.	13 00
Cutting up plank and boards.	18 00
Sound dressing stocks.	17 00
Clear and picks.	31 00
Three uppers, Am. Inspection.	35 00
1 inch dressed and matched flooring.	20 00
" " " " "	20 00
" " " " "	20 00
XXX sawn shingles, 2 M.	2 90
Lath per 1000 feet.	4 00

OTTAWA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Dec. 22nd.—The weather of late has been exceedingly open in the Ottawa Valley, with no snow on the ground in this section at the present time, and lumbermen fear that the lack of the "beautiful" will have a tendency to curtail in a measure the quantity of logs and square timber to be got out this winter; but Venuor has promised "snow" before the season

is over, and it must come sooner or later, before next summer anyway, and this will make lumbermen happier.

The lumber business is rather flat here just now, as stocks here are low. There is not near so much lumber being held over by the mill. Owners of this locality as there was a year ago. Bronsons & Weston have only about half as much on hand as at this time last year, Eddy and Gilmour & Co. also have reduced stocks, Pevey & Pattee and J. R. Booth have nearly the same amount as a year ago, as their season's cut was not reduced to a very great extent. There are some shipments being made by rail to the American markets, but the trade is not very active, as lumbermen are now between the two seasons, and business is quiet. The stocks on hand have about all been disposed of, and are shipped as desired. Lumbermen decline as yet to estimate their cut of next season, as it is too early, and they therefore decline to enter into any contracts with dealers.

The prospect of another season's good trade in lumber is looked forward to by all parties interested, and preparations are being made for it. Lumbermen have nearly all sent a greater number of men into the shanties than they did a year ago, but if the snow fall is light, there may be low water again next summer, and consequent trouble and loss experienced. Barge-owners are anticipating a good season, and the barge-builders at the Hull shipyard are busy at work building some additional barges.

The electric light promises to be the saw mill light of the future. McLachlin Bros., of Arnprior, intend to have their splendid new mill lighted up by electricity, and have given an order to the Maxam Co. for the necessary lights and machinery. Mr. Peter McLaren, of Carleton Place, has also ordered five lights for his mill and grounds at Carleton Place.

Timber limits have increased in value of late. Two or three years ago there was no sale for them, and some of those who had them on their hands felt the weight of them to carry through to the end of the hard time. To-day there was sold at the Grand Union House, in this city, by auction, a 100 miles square limit on the Black River, owned by Mr. James Findlay, for \$60,000. Mr. Miller, of Pembroke, was the purchaser. There were a good many lumbermen present at the sale, considerable interest being manifested.

During the past season 415,435 logs came down the Gatineau River, together with 16,089 pieces of square and flatted timber, and 794 spars, being quite an increase over the quantities for the previous year, and greater than in any preceding season.

The export of timber from Quebec was not so great during the past season as in the previous one, while over four and a half million feet of square timber is held over, with a million and a half feet of white waney, and two million feet of red pine. The timber product of the Ottawa Valley this year was nearly double that of 1880, and more still will be taken out the coming season. There is quite a quantity—some half a dozen rafts—laid up on the Upper Ottawa.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Dec. 21.—It is no easy task to make up a lumber report with the very scanty materials at command at this season of the year. True, our harbor is open and we have the same facilities for shipping as in July, but with the sources of supply closed, and the stock on hand reduced to a minimum, there is little left to be done.

DEALS.

As noticed in our last report, all the available stock having been bought up, there are no transactions in deals to report at this writing. The prospects for the future appear to be that the price of deals the coming year will rule higher than for some time past—the latest transactions, of course, excepted. It seems to be agreed on all hands that the log supply will be much below the average; this, together with the fact that old stocks are pretty well cleared out, and the improving prospects of the English market, would seem to indicate that the expectations of higher prices next year are well founded.

FREIGHTS.

We have nothing to add to our remarks under this head in our last.

SHIPMENTS.

The shipments of deals and other sawn lumber are as follows:—

For Europe.....	3,630,000 Sup. feet.
" United States.....	1,398,000 "
" West Indies.....	233,000 "
The number of sugar box shooks shipped for Cuba from Sept. 1st to date is 34,856.	

SHIPPING.

The following is a list of the vessels in port, with their tonnage and destinations:—

Atlantic, 412, Liverpool, Fleetwood Barrow.
Emily Lowther, 762, Liverpool.
Rialto, 1,530, Liverpool.
Arabella, 1,100, London.
Henry, 1,095, Liverpool.
Elita Stewart, 787, —
Cambusodon, 1,200, Bona (Afr.) orders.
Carrick Castle, 878, Adelaide, orders.
Magdala, 215, Bristol Channel.
Linden, 913, Liverpool or Bristol Channel.
Souvenir, 828, Liverpool.
Gettysburg, 1,018, Adelaide, for orders.
Templar, 778, discharging.
Antwerp, 573, Penarth Roads.
Tryburn, 448, discharging.
at 1st, 650, —

ALBANY.

Dec. 22.—Quotations at the yards are as follows:—

Pine, clear, 2 M.	\$53 00	\$63 00
Pine, fourths.	48 00	\$58 00
Pine, selects.	43 00	\$53 00
Pine, good box.	18 00	\$30 00
Pine, 10-in. plank, each.	00 38	\$40 42
Pine, 10-in. plank, culls, each.	00 20	\$40 22
Pine boards, 10-in.	00 26	\$40 28
Pine, 10-in. boards, culls.	00 18	\$40 19
Pine, 10-in. boards, 16 ft., 2 M.	25 00	\$30 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 16 ft.	25 00	\$30 00
Pine, 13-in. boards, 13 ft.	28 00	\$30 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, select.	40 00	\$42 00
Pine, 11-in. siding, common.	40 00	\$42 00
Pine, 1-in. siding, select.	40 00	\$42 00
Pine, 1-in. siding, common.	40 00	\$42 00
Spruce, boards, each.	00 00	\$40 16
Spruce, plank, 11-in., each.	00 00	\$40 20
Spruce, plank, 2-in., each.	00 00	\$40 30
Spruce, wall strips, each.	00 11	\$40 12
Hemlock, boards, each.	00 00	\$40 14
Hemlock, joist, 4x6, each.	00 00	\$40 31
Hemlock, joist, 2x4, each.	00 00	\$40 14
Hemlock, wall strips, 2x4 each.	00 00	\$40 11
Ash, good, 2 M.	35 00	\$40 40
Ash, second quality, 2 M.	25 00	\$40 30
Cherry, good, 2 M.	00 00	\$40 70
Cherry, common, 2 M.	25 00	\$40 35
Oak, good, 2 M.	35 00	\$40 43
Oak, second quality, 2 M.	20 00	\$40 25
Hardwood, 2 M.	22 00	\$40 25
Hickory, 2 M.	36 00	\$40 40
Maple, Canada, 2 M.	28 00	\$40 30
Maple, American, per M.	25 00	\$40 28
Chestnut, 2 M.	35 00	\$40 40
Shingles, shaved, pine, 2 M.	0 00	\$ 6 25
" 2nd quality.	0 00	\$ 5 40
" extra, sawed, pine.	0 00	\$ 4 40
" clear.	0 00	\$ 3 40
" cedar, mixed.	0 00	\$ 3 30
" cedar, XXX.	0 00	\$ 4 00
" hemlock.	0 00	\$ 2 25
Lath, hemlock, 2 M.	0 00	\$ 1 02
Lath, spruce.	0 00	\$ 1 57
Lath, pine.	0 00	\$ 2 00

CHICAGO.

Dec. 21.—The arrivals by lake since our last report have consisted of but a few straggling vessels. The aggregate receipts by both lake and rail reached during the past five days but a little over 5,000,000 feet of lumber, and 2,690,000 shingles, bringing the total receipts of the season to 1,846,819,000 feet of lumber, and 783,401,000 shingles. This is an excess of 33,234,000 feet for lumber and 149,344,000 shingles above the receipts of 1880, and while ten days of the current year still remain, and will no doubt increase the excess to some extent, yet they are practically near enough to determining the net results of the season's work in receiving lumber at this port. This extraordinary increase, however, is wholly offset by the equally astonishing figures of sale and shipment, which having reached 1,871,133,000 feet of lumber and 868,852,000 shingles, reveal an increase in the former of 357,781,000 feet and in the latter of 131,388,000. The following are the

CARGO QUOTATIONS.

Joist and scantling, green, ordinary lengths	\$12 00	\$12 25
Joist and scantling, green, 20 feet and over	14 00	\$16 25
Mill run, choice green.	19 00	\$23 00
Mill run, medium, green.	16 00	\$19 25
Mill run, common.	00 00	\$14 00
Shingles, standard.	2 75	\$ 2 80
Shingles, extra A.	2 80	\$ 2 90
Lath.	2 12	\$ 2 25

BOSTON.

CANADA PINE.

Selects, Dressed.	\$48 00	\$50 00
Shelving, Dressed, 1st.	40 00	\$42 00
" 2nd.	35 00	\$35 00
Dressed Shippers.	27 00	\$29 00
Dressed Box.	18 00	\$20 00
Sheathing, 1st quality.	42 00	\$45 00
" 2nd.	34 00	\$35 00