

Market Reports.

TORONTO.

From our own Correspondent.

FEB. 20th.—Lumber shipments to this city are extremely small at present, and likely to continue so for some time to come, if the railway companies continue to fleece shippers in the same style as at present adopted by them. The freight department of the G. T. R. here has a new manager in charge, and so far as lumbermen are concerned, at least, the change has not been a happy one. The stringent measures now in operation, in regard to the weighing of all cars of lumber, certainly commenced under his instructions, and to make the shippers' position still more hazardous, this model of a freight agent has just now issued a circular notifying all lumber shippers that on and after the 1st of March, all cars not unloaded within forty-eight hours after their arrival in Toronto, will be shunted down to the Don, and there unloaded at the risk of the owner, and \$3 collected for shunting, as well as cost for unloading. It is really surprising that he contents himself with merely sending the cars only about three miles back on the same route by which they came here; why not send them down, say to Port Hope, as the lumber might be shipped by water from there on the opening of navigation?

In my last letter I stated that the G. T. R. Co. only charged single rates on all excess weight over 24,000 lbs., but this is done away with, and the same rates are now charged as by the N. & N. W. R. Co., that is to say, on the first ten over 24,000 lbs. single rates, all over that, double. It is said, by those who profess to know, that the traffic agent of the N. & N. W. R. has interviewed the G. T. agent, and (to use a rather vulgar phrase) has said, "now, you scratch my back and I will scratch yours," and between them both they claw the pockets of their customers quite lively. Now, there is doubtless a distinction to be made between the highwaymen who coolly orders a man to stand and deliver, and a company that forces from their patrons money which they have not honestly earned, but I must confess that, so far as I can view it, it is a distinction without a difference; however, to close it up, I would say that if the lumbermen stand and merely groan at this kind of treatment, they deserve all they got, and more.

Since writing my last letter, sawn lath has taken a sudden jump upward in price, and may now be quoted at \$2.50 per M., from the yards; and few to be got at that. The yards have a fair stock of most kinds of lumber except 2x8 and 2x4. This kind of stock is extremely small in quantity at all the yards.

In a former letter I promised to give you a description of the wood working and planing factories in this city, and I will now endeavor to redeem that promise, to the best of my ability, in this: a future letter, taking them in the order which their importance merits.—The firm of J. P. Wagner & Co., situated on Adelaide street west, between Bay and York Streets, is doubtless the most complete of its kind in the Dominion. Their new factory has only been erected two years, and is a most imposing structure, covering a space of 62 feet on Adelaide street, by 186 feet in depth, to Boulton street; it is five stories high, and the total number of superficial feet in this building is 26,848, and all taken up fully by machinery and workmen. The total number of men now employed is about 125, to be largely increased in the coming spring. Everything new in the way of labor saving machinery is to be found in this building, and the quality of work turned out by this firm cannot be surpassed on this continent. Sashes, doors, blinds, stairs of the most elaborate designs, all ready to be put in their proper places, meet the eye at every turn. Wood turning, carved work, and scroll work, in most designs, are here to be seen, and last, but not least, piano key boards, of the most durable and costly finish. This branch of their business is fast increasing, as they have now 25 men constantly employed in this department alone, and expect shortly to double that number. Previous to the N. P. coming in force, nearly all of this kind of work was imported, but now this firm are turning out piano key boards, equal in

finish, durability and elasticity to the touch, to any heretofore imported from the United States. At least so say those who should know whereof they speak; and in fact the entire factory is carefully conducted under trained foremen, and the careful supervision of the members of the firm, and should any of your readers, on a visit to this city, desire to see for themselves, they will find the senior member of this firm ever ready to extend the same courtesy to them as shown to your correspondent, by showing them through their factory.

MONTREAL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FEB. 23.—Work in the shanties is progressing favorably, and if there is sufficient water in the spring to float down all that has been cut, the stock of lumber this season will be large. Prospects for shipping on the opening of navigation are fair, but the quantity may probably not reach the figures of 1881. There is no likelihood of higher rates of freight to South America, any advance would enable shippers to export as cheaply via New York. The demand for lumber here for the past two weeks has been very quiet, but no change has taken place in quotations since our last report, but as stock here are light, holders are very firm in their prices. We continue to quote:—

Pine, 1st quality, 1/2 M.....	\$35 00/40 00
Pine, 2nd " " " ".....	30 00/35 00
Pine, shipping culls, 1/2 M.....	18 00/25 00
Pine, cull deals, 1/2 M.....	8 00/12 00
Pine, mill culls, 1/2 M.....	5 00/8 00
Spruce, 1/2 M.....	8 00/10 00
Hemlock, 1/2 M.....	8 00/10 00
Ash, run of long culls out, 1/2 M.....	16 00/18 00
Bass, " " " ".....	10 00/17 00
Oak, 1/2 M.....	35 00/45 00
Birch, 1/2 M.....	17 00/20 00
Hard Maple, 1/2 M.....	18 00/25 00
Lath, 1/2 M.....	1 50/2 00
Shingles, 1st, 1/2 M.....	3 00/4 00
Shingles, 2nd, 1/2 M.....	2 00/3 00

Advices just received by mail from Liverpool state that trade during January was quiet, but business is in a healthier state than it has been for years. Some considerable sales of Quebec waney board pine, averaging 20 inches, have been made at 2s. 6d. per foot, yarded. At auction there have been sales of

St. John Spruce deals, at £7 15 9 per standard.	
Halifax, " " " ".....	7 15 0
Dalhousie, " " " ".....	7 9 0
Ship Harbor, " " " ".....	7 8 0
Quebec waney board pine, 2 6 per ft.	

The following are the wholesale quotations in Liverpool for Canadian woods:—

Quebec Square White Pine, cub. ft.....	0 1 6/10 2 3
Quebec Waney Board Pine.....	0 2 2 0 2 9
St. John Pine, 18 inch av.....	0 1 9 0 1 11
Lower Port Pine.....	0 1 2 0 1 5
Quebec Red Pine.....	0 1 4 0 1 2
Quebec Oak, 1st quality.....	0 2 9 0 3 0
Quebec Oak, 2nd quality.....	0 2 3 0 2 6
Ash.....	0 1 4 0 2 0
Elm.....	0 1 9 0 2 0
Hickory.....	0 2 3 0 2 6
Quebec Birch.....	0 1 4 0 1 8
St. John Birch.....	0 1 4 0 1 6
Spruce Spars.....	0 0 11 0 1 2

DEALS—	
1st quality Quebec Pine, stds.....	19 0 0 20 10 0
2nd " " " ".....	13 10 0 14 10 0
3rd " " " ".....	9 10 0 9 15 0
St. John, N.B., & Co., Spruce.....	7 10 0 7 15 0
Lower Port Spruce.....	7 10 0 0 0 0
Spruce Boards.....	6 5 0 6 10 0
Lathwood, per fathom.....	2 10 0 4 0 0

STAVES—

1st quality Quebec Pine, std. mille.....	30 0 0 35 0 0
2nd " " " ".....	25 0 0 30 0 0
1st quality Quebec Panchon.....	23 0 0 25 0 0
2nd " " " ".....	19 0 0 0 0 0

CORNWOOD.—The very heavy fall of snow which we have had the past week has rather delayed importations. The demand here keeps pretty good. There is, however, no change to note in wholesale prices, which keeps steady at the late reduction. We quote prices at the railway depot, ex cartage:—

Long Maple.....	\$5 00
Short " ".....	5 30
Long Birch.....	5 50
Short " ".....	5 00
Long Beech.....	5 00
Short " ".....	4 50
Long Tamarack.....	4 50
Short " ".....	4 00

OTTAWA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FEB. 23rd.—The past few days' snow falls have revived the drooping spirits of the lumbermen of the Ottawa Valley. The previous ominous soft weather was on a fair way of proving disastrous to the carrying on of operations for the balance of the season. Disheartened contractors in many cases completely suspended work, and broke up their shanties, having found it impossible to procure supplies, the bad roads not permitting their conveyance to the shanties.

Not only those engaged in hauling, but also the choppers and square timber makers were compelled to suspend. Fortunately sufficient snow has fallen to allow operations to be commenced again.

The cut, it is thought, owing to the many drawbacks, will fall short of what was anticipated earlier in the season. It will be short in the average size and also in the quality and quantity. In square timber, however, there will be no loss.

Logs are now quoted at 65 to \$2.00 per standard, duty paid. As in other seasons, there will be a large number of cks this year in the streams, while quantities will be left in the woods. The following are the principal firms taking out logs in the localities mentioned:—On the Black River—Bronson & Weston, J. R. Booth, Grant & Miller, John Rochester, and McLaughlin & Fraser. On the Kippawa—Sherman, Lord & Hurdman, Booth J. Gordon, Oliver, Atour, J. & G. Bryson, and the British Canadian Lumbering Co. On the Temiscamigue—B. H. & Hickey, Fraser & Screenoy, and Taggart. There are besides the foregoing quite a number of smaller jobbers.

Pink eye is playing havoc among the horses in the majority of the up river shanties. It is remarkable that the disease does not effect in such a serious degree the animals in the inland shanties. It is principally those of the concerns along the main river and larger streams that are afflicted. A person travelling one day recently from Fort Eddy to Mattawa, a distance of ten miles, counted sixteen carcasses of horses that had succumbed to the disease. Some firms have engaged the services of competent persons in order that they may be on hand to work when fit. The outbreak of this disease is attributed by some to the unbroken weather this winter. It is known for a fact that during the cold spell that preceded the late thaw the disease died out considerably, but it appeared again when the soft weather set in. Some shanties have as many as twenty-five or thirty horses laid up just now with the disease. This will also tend to diminish the production of logs.

The concerns here report no sales lately, but next month will tell a different tale, as spring orders will then begin to be received.

J. R. Booth's mills are undergoing extensive repairs this season, as are also a number of the other mills.

Baldwin & Co.'s and Almer's mills, recently damaged by fire, are being reconstructed rapidly, and will soon be in operation again.

BRACEBRIDGE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FEB. 25.—The hauling for the two weeks previous to this one has been almost at a standstill for want of snow, but the recent fall has made things more lively for the present week, but it was impossible to get all the hired teams back again into the woods. For this reason there will probably not be as much got out as was anticipated in the earlier part of the season.

David McLelland, a jobber for the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, who is well known here and has been in the business for many years, was thrown from his cutter on Feb. 14th by his horse running away, and was killed.

A company to be known as the Midland and North Shore Lumber Co., some of the members of which are Messrs. D. Ulyott, G. A. Cox and J. Bertram, of Peterborough, has been recently formed. They have purchased the Guelph Lumber Co.'s property in the Parry Sound District. It is said that they have paid \$140,000 for the mill and limits. The limits are well timbered, and there is no doubt that it is a good purchase.

MIDLAND.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FEB. 25.—The British Canadian Lumber and Timber Co. is erecting here another large mill with a capacity of about 100,000 feet a day, to be ready by the first of May. They are also making extensive improvements in their other two mills, and expect to cut about 36,000,000 feet in the coming season.

The other mills are all fitting up ready for a start as soon as navigation opens.

The B. C. L. & Co. are also rebuilding their tug, the *Minnie Hall*.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FEB. 20th.—It is quite safe to assert that that remarkable personage "the oldest inhabitant," cannot call to remembrance the time during the history of the deal trade at this port, when the stock was so completely "cleaned out." For the next month or so, therefore, little can be said in connection with the trade here that will be of interest to your readers.

In our last report reference was made to the probable over-supply of snow for carrying on logging operations; a heavy thaw has since somewhat changed the position of matters in this respect, and from all we can learn there is little to complain of now regarding the conditions for hauling in the lumber woods. Some localities, of course, have more snow than others, but the presumption is that the work can now be carried on with vigour throughout the country generally, with a fair prospect of a good supply of water in the spring for bringing the logs out of the streams.

FRIGHTS.

In consequence of the exhaustion of our stock of deals there is no demand for shipping, hence our freight market is for the time virtually closed. The only charter we hear of since last report is the *Buteshire*, 967 tons, for Barrow, Liverpool, Bristol Channel, Dublin or Glasgow, at 61s. 3d.

SHIPMENTS.

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

For Europe.....	1,211,000 Sup. feet.
" United States.....	647,000 "
" Australia.....	847,000 "

No shipments of sugar box shooks for Cuba this term.

SHIPPING.

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

Fidella, 450, Cuba.	
Buteshire, 967, United Kingdom.	
Altair, 446, —	
Grace E. Cann, 633, E. C. Ireland.	

BOSTON.

FEB. 18.—The *Journal of Commerce* says reports coming in are of the most encouraging character. Even at present there is a remarkably good demand, and it would probably be larger were it not for the very uncertain weather which prevents indulging in future operations to any great extent. The export demand is reported better than for many years at the same period. From all the western trade centres the most flattering reports continue. In Chicago, during the last two weeks, the shipments show an increase of 20 per cent. over the same period of last year. On all sides it seems to be agreed that the prospects for a good spring trade were never better. In this market, at present, there is a dull feeling in birch and maple. Aside from this there seem to be no weak points. With this state of things it seems probable that values will increase materially before spring has well advanced. Hard woods continue firm and strong. Our quotations are for carload logs:—

CANADA PINE.

Selects, Dressed.....	\$18 00/20 00
Shelving, Dressed, 1st.....	40 00/42 00
" 2nds.....	33 00/35 00
Dressed Shingles.....	27 00/29 00
Dressed Lath.....	18 00/20 00
Shedding, 1st quality.....	42 00/45 00
" 2nd.....	34 00/35 00

CHICAGO.

FEB. 15.—The *Northwestern Lumberman* says: If the wholesale lumber dealers of the city are not satisfied with the present condition of trade, and the outlook of business, they should give up the vain and illusory things of earth and retire to the cloister, for nothing material could satisfy them. Inquiry at the leading yards convinces one that for the time of the year trade is heavy. One familiar with the lumber district can see by walking through it that the outward movement of stocks is brisk and continuous, without making any inquiry. As an evidence of how large the shipments are, it is noted that from one of the principal yards is daily run out from 40 to 45 cars. The same concern will, if trade maintains its present volume, ship 5,000,000 feet of lumber the present month. Other yards are doing proportionately well. The continuance of this remarkable spring-like weather, and the improvement of country roads,