

## TRADE REVIEW.

## Montreal, Que.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28th.—The business done in lumber in this city this season shows a falling off. In small lots considerable is doing, but there is but small enquiry for cargo quotations, heavy consumers not being disposed to anticipate the wants of the future, although it is certain that, before long, there must be an augmentation of values. Of some kinds of lumber there is an acknowledged scarcity. Messrs. Bulmer's sale, the beginning of the month, principally of hardwood, was the biggest auction held here for some years, close on 500 lots finding purchasers at fair prices.

Should the weather be as favorable as during the past month it is very probable that extensive building operations will be carried on during the winter, and in that event higher prices in some descriptions are almost sure to rule.

Last month's sales fell off almost fifty per cent. as compared with November, 1886, and at present transactions, both at wholesale and retail, have been very much diminished.

Following are the prices ruling at this date:

Pine, 1st quality, 2 M	\$38 00	40 00	Baswood, run of log	\$18 00	20 00
Pine, 2nd	28 00	30 00	culls out per M.	40 00	50 00
Pine, shipping culls	14 00	16 00	Oak, per M.	60 00	100 00
Pine, 4th quality	10 00	12 00	Walnut, per M.	35 00	40 00
deals 2 M.	8 00	10 00	Cherry, per M.	25 00	30 00
Pine, mill culls, 2 M	10 00	13 00	Butternut, per M.	35 00	40 00
Spruce, per M.	9 00	10 00	Birch, per M.	20 00	25 00
hemlock, per M.	9 00	10 00	Hard Maple, per M.	25 00	30 00
Ash, run of log culls	20 00	25 00	Lath, per M.	1 50	00 00
out per M.	20 00	25 00	Shingles, 1st, per M.	2 00	3 00
			Shingles, 2nd, per M.	1 00	2 00

## Toronto, Ont.

TORONTO, Dec. 29th, 1887.

Heartrending wails of lumber dealers are filling the air. That embodiment of all evil, the speculative builder, by his unholy deeds has lessened very materially the profits of the dealers. Hence the wails, with more to follow.

It is something peculiar, very peculiar, that a lumberman who in the past has had to lament the loss of several shakels is quite ready to supply a bill of lumber to another of these gentlemen. The unlimited check displayed by an enterprising builder is amazing. No mortal having the most vivid imagination could possibly conceive of such a being as the one above mentioned. One of them will walk into an office and request figures on a bill of lumber, stating in a careless, off-hand way, as a matter of no importance, that he has purchased a quantity of land and is about to erect a number of houses; forgetting to add that he has paid the enormous sum of \$15 or \$20 down, the balance in years to come. The dealer fills the bill, delighted at the prospect of making a good sale. He may receive some money when the first draw is made, with promises of more when next the draw come round. This fairy music is kept up to the last until the dealer finds, too late, that dollars have been abstracted from his coffers.

Our dealers are, par excellence, the largest hearted men in this city. They have contributed more to the building of Toronto than any other class. While the land dealer will gladly dispose of land without the payment of any sum of consequence, the lumber dealer goes one better and supplies lumber to the penniless adventurer with no security of any kind, knowing well that the material supplied will enhance the value of the property, benefiting the land dealer and him alone. It is not to add to their untold millions that our dealers do business—perish the thought. Nothing affords them greater pleasure than to drive through the city and see building after building erected with the lumber supplied gratuitously by them. So long as building is actively carried on and the demand for lumber consequently good, what care our dealers for money,—that they may lose, but the monuments erected throughout the city to the memory of almost every lumberman, afford a solace for any pang a dealer may feel when notes fall due.

The pleasure of benefiting suffering humanity, represented in the person of a speculative builder, must be intense, so much of it is done. It is painful to think of the quantity of lumber required to erect buildings throughout the recent additions made to Toronto. Our authorities did wrong in extending the bounds of this city without consulting our lumbermen. Not one but would have fought against it, as rather overdoing the thing and as taking a mean advantage of their large, extensive public spirit.

Gentlemen dealers in lumber, you are fulfilling what has been said of old—"It is more blessed to give than receive."

Business is quiet, very little lumber being sold, in some instances we have heard of pieces being cut to work off car lots. Our dealers find the stringency of the money market effecting them very much, builders not getting such large advances as formerly.

Quite a number of builders are somewhat straightened in money matters, requiring renewals, some for the whole amount and others for part. From reports circulating we learn that

there is a large amount of money tied up in buildings, and that some dealers have met with considerable losses. Two months from the present may in all probability see a few changes in the trade.

Prices on the whole are much about the same, good paper demanding concessions and receiving them.

Fewer builders and concerted action among the dealers would be beneficial to all concerned.

## CAR OR CARGO LOTS.

1½ and thicker clear picks, American inspection	\$34 00	\$35 00
1½ and thicker, three uppers, American inspection	40 00	
1½ and thicker, pickings, American inspection	30 00	
1x10 & 12 dressing and better	20 00	22 00
1x10 & 12 mill run	15 00	16 00
1x10 & 12 dressing	14 00	16 00
1x10 & 12 common	12 00	13 00
1x10 & 12 spruce culls	10 00	11 00
1x10 & 12 maple culls	9 00	
1 inch clear and picks	24 00	26 00
1 inch dressing and better	18 00	20 00
1 inch sliding mill run	13 00	15 00
1 inch sliding common	12 00	13 00
1 inch sliding ship culls	10 00	11 00
1 inch sliding mill culls	8 00	9 00
Cull scantling	8 00	9 00
1½ and thicker cutting up plank	22 00	25 00
1 inch strips 4 in to 8 in mill run	14 00	15 00
1 inch strips, common	11 00	12 00
1½ inch flooring	14 00	15 00
1½ inch flooring	14 00	15 00
XXX shingles, sawn	2 40	2 50
XX shingles, sawn	1 40	1 50
Lath, Sawn	1 40	1 50

## YARD QUOTATIONS.

Mill cull boards and scantlings	10 00	Dressing stocks	14 00	15 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	12 00	Picks Am. inspection	30 00	
stocks	13 00	Three uppers, Am. inspect.	40 00	
Scantling & joist, up to 16 ft	13 00	1½ in. flooring, dressed	23 00	30 00
" " " " 18 ft	14 00	" " " " rough	14 00	15 00
" " " " 20 ft	15 00	" " " " dressed	23 00	25 00
" " " " 22 ft	16 00	" " " " undressed	14 00	15 00
" " " " 24 ft	17 00	" " " " dressed	16 00	20 00
" " " " 26 ft	18 00	" " " " undressed	12 00	14 00
" " " " 28 ft	19 00	Beaded sheeting, dressed	18 00	20 00
" " " " 30 ft	20 00	ed	18 00	20 00
" " " " 32 ft	21 00	Clapboarding, dressed	12 50	
" " " " 34 ft	22 00	XXX sawn shingles	2 75	2 90
" " " " 36 ft	23 00	per M.	2 75	2 90
" " " " 38 ft	24 00	Sawn Lath	2 25	2 50
" " " " 40 to 44 ft	30 00	Red oak	20 00	25 00
Cutting up planks 1½ and thicker dry	25 00	White	25 00	30 00
board	18 00	Baswood, No. 1 & 2	18 00	20 00
		Cherry, No. 1 & 2	30 00	60 00
		White ash, 1 & 2	25 00	30 00
		Black ash, 1 & 2	20 00	25 00

## Goderich, Ont.

GODERICH, Dec. 28th.—The market here is very quiet; the usual holiday calm. Dealers throughout the country are preparing to "take stock," and overhaul the year's business before making a fresh start for the new year. Little will be done before the end of January. The business of 1887 has been fairly good at this point.

The expectation is growing that at no very distant date this will be a terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Should this be realized all industries would be increased and benefited—none more so than the lumberman's.

Prices remain as last quoted.

## PRICES IN CAR LOTS.

1 inch Mill Culls	\$8 00	\$8 50
1x6-8-10 & 12, common	12 00	
1x6-8-10 & 12, dressing	16 00	
1x14, and wider, common	12 00	
1x14, " " dressing	16 00	
1½ dressing	16 00	
1½ " "	16 00	
1½ Norway pine flooring	14 00	
1½ " "	14 00	
1 inch clear and picks	26 00	
1 inch clear and picks 4 to 8 inch	25 00	
1½ and 1½ clear and picks	35 00	
Lath 1½x4 feet	1 85	

## Ottawa, Ont.

DEC. 28th.—Very little change is noticeable in the state of trade here compared with last month. Consequent upon the holidays there has been the usual cessation in trade, but immediately after the opening of the new year we may look for the usual activity.

A large body of our lumbermen attended the sale of timber limits in Toronto the middle of the month, but made few purchases. They seemed to have made up their minds that the sale was going to be rather slow and prices small, but in this they were disappointed. Mr. Alex Fraser, of Westmeath, or Pembroke, was the largest buyer from the Ottawa district, and in fact almost the only buyer among the large capitalists. He purchased the limits in entire township of Divine some 53½ square miles for \$182,525. The largest price per square mile obtained at the sale was for berth No. 1 of the township of Livingstone, which included eight square miles. This was purchased by J. W. Pack of Alpena, Mich., for \$6,350 per square mile.

The Ottawa lumbermen, although much dissatisfied with the obstinacy of the government in reference to the ground rent and crown dues question, are rather resigned to their fate and say they expect nothing from the government.

During the past season 214,000,000 feet of lumber have been shipped by water from Ottawa, and 180,000,000 feet by

rail, making a total of 394,000,000 feet, of which it is estimated 296,000,000 was shipped to the United States, while bulk of remaining 98,000,000 went to England.

The following are the ruling prices at this date:

Dimensions, inches.	Per M.
Mill culls	10 x 1
" " "	12 1
" " "	12 1½
" " "	12 2
" " selected 16 ft. long, above dimensions	8.50 to 9.00
Cull strips, 1 in. thick, 5 to 7 wide	7.00 to 8.00
Mill cut outs	12 x 1
" " "	11 1½
" " "	12 2
Scantling	2 4
" " "	2 4
" " culls	3 4
" " "	3 4
Laths	1 25
Stock shorts, 12 x 1	10.00
1 inch sliding outs, 1½, 1½, 2	15.00
" " " " "	6.50 to 7.00
Outs from stocks	12 x 1
" " "	12 1½
" " "	12 1½
Shingles, X	1.25
" " "	2.00
" " XXX	3.00
" " cedar, No. 1	2.00 to 2.75
" " cedar, culls	1.25
Difference in planed lumber, in waste and planing	5.00
Ditto, on average good stock	20.00 to 25.00

## Hamilton, Ont.

Mill cull boards and scantlings	\$ 9 00	10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	10 00	12 00
Shipping cull stocks	13 00	15 00
Scantling and joist up to 6 feet	13 00	15 00
do up to 18 feet	13 50	15 00
do up to 20 feet	14 00	15 00
do up to 22 feet	15 00	16 00
do up to 24 feet	16 00	17 00
do up to 26 feet	17 00	18 00
do up to 28 feet	18 00	19 00
do up to 30 feet	20 00	21 00
Cutting up plank 1½ and thicker, dry	25 00	30 00
Cutting up boards	20 00	25 00
Dressing stocks	\$ 6 00	18 00
1½ flooring, rough	16 00	18 00
1½ flooring, rough	16 00	18 00
1½ flooring, dressed	25 00	
1½ flooring, dressed	32 00	
1½ flooring, dressed	23 00	
Beaded sheeting 1	25 00	30 00
Picks, Am. inspection	30 00	
Three uppers Am. In.	40 00	
XXX sawn shingles	2 60	2 70
Sawn Lath	2 25	
Red Oak	20 00	25 00
White Oak	25 00	30 00
Baswood No. 1 & 2	18 00	20 00
Cherry No. 1 & 2	50 00	60 00
White Ash No. 1 & 2	25 00	30 00
Black Ash No. 1 & 2	20 00	25 00

## Saginaw Valley.

## CARGO LOTS.

Uppers	36 00	35 00	Norway	9 00	10 50
Common	15 00	20 00	Box	10 00	10 50
Shipping Culls	8 00	15 00	Straight measure	12 00	23 00
Mill Culls	6 00				

## YARD QUOTATIONS—CAR LOTS DRY.

Drop Siding.	C. ½ in.	D. ½ in.
Clear, ½ in.	44 00	46 00
" " "	38 00	41 00
" " "	36 00	38 00
Clear, ¾ in.	46 00	48 00
" " "	40 00	42 00
" " "	38 00	40 00
Clear, 1 in.	48 00	50 00
" " "	42 00	44 00
" " "	40 00	42 00
Clear, 1 ½ in.	50 00	52 00
" " "	44 00	46 00
" " "	42 00	44 00

## Finishing Lumber—Rough.

Three uppers, 1 in.	43 00	45 00	Pine common, 1 in.	28 00	31 00
1½ & 1½	44 00	46 00	1½ & 2 in.	32 00	
Selects, 1 in.	35 00	36 00	C, 7, 8 & 9 in.	25 00	
1½ & 2 in.	36 00	38 00	Base, 2 to 9 in. No. 1	40 00	
" " "	38 00	40 00	No. 2	30 00	
" " "	40 00	42 00	No. 3	20 00	
" " "	42 00	44 00	Coffin boards 16 in. and over	16 00	

## Joist, Scantling and Timber.

12 to 18 feet	10 00	22 feet	12 00
20 feet	11 00	24 feet	13 00

## Plank and timber, 12 inches wide, \$1 extra.

Wide Select and Common—Rough.	
C (No. 1 com.) 13 in. and up	28 00
D (common) 14 in. and up	16 00

## Lath, Shingles and Pickets.

No. 1 . . . . .	1 25	Clear butts . . . . .	2 25	2 35
Shingles, river brand		Picks, 2 to 2½ in rough	12 00	13 00
XXX . . . . .	3 40	3 50	Dressed . . . . .	20 00
Clear butts . . . . .	2 40	2 50	1½ in. square, dressed	14 00
				19 00

## St. John, N. B.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 27th, 1887.

Business has been fairly good for the month. Four mills, Hilyard's, Adams & Gregory's, Miller & Woodman's and Cushing's are still running and will not shut down until cold weather forces it. The only boom there is to note, however, is with the shingle mills, which have had a prosperous season. Three firms, Gunter, Cowan and Stetson & Jordan, are still running and the last named, having piled cedar, will run all winter. Gunter & Co. will build an addition to their mill, after closing. A further indication of the state of trade is found in the building of Miller & Woodman's new shingle mill, which will have eight machines—not twenty, as reported—and also clapboard and stave machines, with possibly a rotary. This mill, by the way, is about completed. The machines will be placed this winter and it will begin operations in the spring.

A careful estimate places the season's cut of fourteen lumber mills in this vicinity at 155,000,000 sp. ft. Five shingle mills have already sawed 55,000,000 shingles. The lumber cut is below that of last season, owing to the freshets which shut down all the mills above the harbor.

The Annagance mills are still in operation and will run until February.

Reports of the building of new mills, changes and improvements come quick and fast. W. H. Murray, of Indian town,