

few persons predict a decline in values; others, and perhaps the majority, contend that present prices will be maintained, and by the more optimistic it is predicted that there will be a sharp advance when the season gets in full swing. A strong argument in favor of higher prices is found in the fact that the winter has been unfavorable for work in the woods. Operators have been forced to stop skidding logs on account of the deep snow, and the estimated cut, which was somewhat lighter than the preceding year, promises to be further curtailed from 15 to 25 per cent. by the cause referred to. All kinds of lumber will be affected, but particularly hemlock and hardwoods, which are confined almost entirely to the snow belt. The fact that dealers and consumers are anxious to contract for stock at current prices is an evidence that the probability of a serious log shortage is appreciated.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The only feature to the eastern lumber market is an advance in the price of square and waney timber. Contracts recently closed show an advance of 5 cents per cubic foot over the prices obtained last year. The maximum figures for square pine, 40 to 45 feet, delivered at Quebec, is 55 cents, and for Ottawa waney 65 cents per 18-inch average and 69 cents for 21-inch. Birch timber is also about 2 cents per cubic foot higher and there has been a slight appreciation in red pine. New Brunswick spruce deals wintering at St. John are reported to be slightly weaker. The larger manufacturers, however, are holding their asking prices steady, as they claim that they cannot sell at a lower figure without incurring loss. New Brunswick cedar shingles still range from \$3.30 to \$3.40 for extras on Boston freight rates.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The lumber trade is more quiet than usual at this season of the year. Dealers are not carrying large stocks, but are disposed to delay placing orders until later in the season. Indications point to another very active building season in Winnipeg, as already plans are under way for a number of important structures. At provincial points also there is likely to be considerable activity and a large consumption of lumber. Some apprehension has been created by the breaking up of the Pacific Coast Lumber Exporters' Association by which the cargo trade of the Pacific coast was controlled. It is said that already one of the British Columbia companies engaged in that trade has reduced the wages of its employees on account of a decline in lumber prices. Many of the logging camps are closed down as a result of deep snow.

UNITED STATES.

At this time there is very little lumber moving in the United States. Any disposition to buy has been thwarted by the severe weather, and until there is a decided change little activity is looked for. In the face of these conditions, prices rule very firm. The middle grades of pine are less firm than the rest of the list, but there is no marked weakness in anything. It is said that in the Lake Superior district the lower grades are bought up so closely that the market is almost bare of stock. Recent quotations on No. 5 boards from manufacturers are \$7.50 and \$8. There continues to be a steady demand for box lumber, and some concerns who have been short and have been unable to obtain stock owing to the heavy snow storms are in an awkward position. Some contracting for

the new cut has been done and there seems to be a disposition on the part of consumers to place orders whenever they are offered the slightest inducement, as they recognize the probability of a lumber shortage on account of unfavorable logging weather. Hardwoods are not moving very actively, but the position is strong. At many points the supply of dry stock is practically exhausted and sales that are now made are of lumber yet to be cut or that is being manufactured. There is some demand from dealers for maple, soft elm, birch and basswood. The Hardwood Manufacturers' Association last week adopted a new list which makes an advance in the prices of cherry, walnut, hickory, thick ash, and one or two other kinds of lumber. The hardwood lumber business of the United States is now thoroughly organized and this should do much towards maintaining prices.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lumber buyers in Great Britain are pursuing a waiting attitude. The question of war or peace between two powerful nations is still in the balance, and if the negotiations now pending should be followed by hostilities, the effect upon the timber trade would not be beneficial. There is also the uncertainty regarding the fiscal policy. The most that can be expected under these conditions is that lumber prices will remain steady. The most important development during the past fortnight is a decline of ten shillings a standard in the price of Swedish redwood. This has caused buyers to be still more cautious and it is difficult to close contracts. Pine deals have been received at Liverpool and London in considerable quantities from Portland and Boston, evidently the low rate of ocean freight being an inducement to ship by rail to these points. As a rule the shipments have been upon arrival and consequently values remain firm, with perhaps a slight upward tendency. Spruce deals are going into consumption at a moderate rate, and notwithstanding the low prices realized at late auction sales values generally are firm.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

O. J. O'Brien, who is lumbering at Noel, N. S., expects to cut 500,000 feet of deals during the coming season.

The trans-Atlantic shipments from the port of Tusket, N. S., in 1903 were 4,000,000 feet, the shippers being Dickie & McGrath.

S. O. Church & Bro., of Sand Point, Ont., have seven camps in operation taking out coeprage stock timber, six in Ontario and one in Quebec.

Hugh Rutherford, of St. Helens, Ont., recently sold to Mr. Mitchell, of Lucknow, 180 trees for \$1,800—another evidence of the value of standing timber.

J. McTeigue, of Port Arthur, Ont., is asking for tenders for the supply of 1,500 standard railway ties, including green cedar, tamarac and jack pine.

Fifteen million feet of lumber owned by White, Ryder & Frost were destroyed by fire at Tonawanda, N. Y., last week. It is said that the loss is upwards of \$300,000, but that the lumber was fully insured.

A Toronto firm is reported to have purchased 15,000,000 feet of lumber from the Edward Hines Lumber Company to be cut this season by the Hayward mill at Duluth, Minn. The stock is intended for export.

About 2,000,000 feet of No. 3 and No. 4 boards was last week sold to Buffalo parties, partly at Duluth and partly at Cloquet, Minn. It is said that \$12 was paid for No. 3 and \$6.50 for the No. 4.

Lumbering operations are being carried on quite extensively in the vicinity of Midgic, N. B., this winter. The operators are Arthur George, of Upper Sackville, Isaac Kay, of Centre Village, and Charles Hicks and J. & C. Hickman, of Midgic.

It is estimated that the log cut on the Penobscot waters this winter will exceed that of last season, amounting probably to 225,000,000 feet. On the St. John river waters in Maine, which include the Aroostook river, the aggregate cut will be 64,000,000 feet.

Lumbering operations around New Liskeard, in the Temiskaming district, were very active this winter. The Rideau Lumber Company, J. R. Booth and E. B. Eddy, of Ottawa, are all operating there, while J. B. Klock, of Klock's Mills, and Gillies Bros., of Brasside, are taking out square timber. It is estimated that these lumbermen will purchase from the settlers fully \$200,000 worth of saw logs and pulp wood this winter.

The Department of Interior, Ottawa, is asking for tenders up to February 24th for a license to cut timber on Berth No. 1133, township 7, and on Berth No. 1134 situated on Bloodvein river, both in the Province of Manitoba. The former contains 24 square miles and the latter two square miles. The Department will also receive tenders up to March 22nd for a license to cut timber on Berth No. 1138 in the vicinity of Fox Plain, District of Saskatchewan, containing thirty square miles to be selected in not more than six blocks within a prescribed area.

Newman Silverthorne, Somerville, Ont., last week sold to A. S. Lamb and William Harris, of Meadowdale, the standing timber on about 150 acres of land situated at Somerville, in the township of Etobicoke, ten miles west of Toronto. It is probably the largest body of standing timber near Toronto and consists of maple, basswood, beech, elm, hickory, oak, birch, ash and a small quantity of hemlock. The purchasers are to remove the timber within a period of four years and are to be allowed to cut all trees over 15 inches in diameter 3 feet from the ground. It is stipulated that the timber must be manufactured on the ground while the details of the transaction are not announced, it is understood that the purchasers agreed to pay about \$8 per thousand feet for the timber as it stands. If this price is correct it indicates the enhanced value of a hardwood forest.

Under date of January 16th, Messrs. S. P. Mussen, Son & Company comment on the Bardados lumber market as follows: "There have been no arrivals of either white pine or spruce since our last report, but dealers' yards are fully stocked, and if further receipts take place in the immediate future we anticipate lower prices. Of the lots mentioned in our last the spruce by the "Lolita A" was rejected and re-

sold at \$18.05 round. The white pine by The "H. Shafner" was also rejected and sold at \$17 round. The only arrival of shingles is a small lot of 54,000 Long Gaspé by the "Dabome," which were sold at \$6.01. This description and Dimension Cedar are both wanted, but Laying Cedar are in fair supply.

ST. JOHN AND AROOSTOOK LOG PRODUCTION.

Following is the estimate of the log cut on the St. John and Aroostook river waters for the present season:

Table with 2 columns: Water Name and Estimated Log Cut (Feet). Includes St. John Waters and Aroostook Waters sections.

TO HOLDERS OF BIRCH LIMITS.

Can you cut birch into Squares, &c. We can also take birch cut on the sweep with a jigger or small hand saw. Large quantities required. Write in first instance to "Finance," c/o CANADA LUMBERMAN.

The barque Plymouth is loading lumber at St. John, N.B., for Buenos Ayres.

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Manufacturer of Doors, Sash, Mouldings, Ceilings. Hard-Matched and Bored... HARDWOOD FLOORING A SPECIALTY.

Lumber Kiln Dried in Any Quantity. J. R. BATON - Orillia, Ont. Correspondence Solicited.

TELEGRAPH POLES WANTED

We buy all lengths. Write us for prices and you will see that by cutting your Cedar into Poles it will net you more than you can get out of it in any other way.

J. B. FARWELL & SON Successors to McCaffrey & Farwell. Orillia, Ont. Oswego, N. Y.

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