

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

ST. JOHN, N. B., June 2nd, 1904.—The market for short lumber is just at present somewhat depressed. The late slump in the price of laths has not been recovered, and it is altogether probable that there will be no change until the large arrivals of the past month have been worked off the Boston and New York markets.

Laths of all kinds, and especially American, are scarce in this vicinity, the wharves being practically bare. A few manufacturers had sold out their season's cut before the drop came.

Taking it altogether, there will not be as many laths manufactured in these

parts by 25 per cent. as was the case last year, as the mills are six weeks late in starting and most of the logs are smaller than usual, which latter will cause a scarcity of lath wood. At present there is not more than one million laths available in this county, and these are divided among several mills. These could probably be bought at from \$1.90 to \$2.00 per M., f.o.b. St. John, for American, and from \$1.05 to \$1.75 for Provincial.

Shingles. No spruce shingles are at present available. There may be a few later in the season, but the amount will not be important. The demand for the higher grades of cedar shingles is moderately brisk in the U.S. market. Clears are especially in demand, and the manufacturers here are having some difficulty in filling orders for this quality. Extras, too, are easily disposed of, but as

there are more of these manufactured than there are of Clears, the stocks increase more rapidly. The call for lower grades is not at all brisk, but this is to be expected, as it has been the case for several years past. Most of these lower grades are disposed of locally at a good figure.

American shingles will be scarcer here than for many years, as in the vicinity of 75 per cent. of the cedar about to be sawn was cut in Quebec and New Brunswick.

There is practically no change in prices, and those mentioned last month will still apply. In regard to the future the manufacturers are not looking for any change of importance. The feeling seems to be that shingles will not be any lower, but, this being a presidential election year, no great stimulation of trade can be looked for.

Clapboards: There are no clapboards to be bought in this vicinity at present. The outlook is that they will be very scarce, and the price will, if there be a change, be higher.

A market that is attracting considerable attention from the manufacturers here just now is that for refuse lumber in the Eastern States, particularly in Boston and vicinity. The demand has steadily increased during the last few seasons, and has been briskly resumed this year. Formerly the lumbermen were glad to get rid of their refuse at any price, but, owing to the demand spoken off, it has steadily increased in value, and it is to-day so scarce that it is difficult to buy even a small lot. American refuse deals can be easily disposed of at \$5.00 per M. f.o.b. St. John, and scantling and boards at \$6.00 per M.

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