THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

The recent big sale of Ontario Government limits was naturally enough discussed at length in Ottawa district timber circles. Opinions on the results differ. One well informed operator said the buyers should be able to realize all they had invested. The high water mark, in his opinion, was placed on lumber values by the prices paid at the sale, a fact which should have a tendency to maintain the prices asked for the manufactured article. A Michigan lumberman who was in the city last week informed the local man that the supply of white pine in Wisconsin and Michigan is for all practical purposes exhausted. The moral drawn from this is that Ottawa district prices should continue high, for the reason that the manufactured stuff will no longer have to bear the competition of the product of the Western States in the English, American and South American markets. Despite the higher freight rates, the stuff from the Western States was wont to cut a big swath when brought into competition with the Ottawa district article in the markets mentioned.

Reverting to the prices going at the Toronto sale, however, it may be stated that some of the local operators are of the opinion that the figures paid were not justified by the quantity and quality of the timber purchased. "Of course it's nothing out of my pocket," said one local lumber baron, "but I really believe some of the purchasers were carried away by the excitement of the moment and would not pay the same money if they had another chance. A lot of us who knew the country thoroughly just sat and looked on."

Reports received in Ottawa from the limits go to show that the work of log-making is progressing fairly well, but the cut will not be as large as in former years. The work of log hauling is behind, however, for the reason that it has been impossible to get the teams in, many of the larger lakes not having frozen over. December's exceptionally cold weather is worrying the lumbermen considerably, as they believe it presages an early break-up in the spring, thus shortening the time for hauling.

The MacLaren Company's shingle mill at Buckingham, which closed down a couple of months ago, has started up again and will probably run all winter. There is an active demand for shingles.

Careful inquiry seems to establish the fact that all the deals at the Ottawa district mills have not yet been sold. It is likely, however, that they will all be disposed of at the ten per cent. advance at which the earlier sales were made.

The movement of manufactured lumber from Ottawa is slack at present and prices show no change. With the new year, however, business is expected to pick up.

OTTAWA, December 19th, 1903.

THE GLASGOW MARKET.

Messrs. Edmiston & Mitchells last monthly timber circular contains the following reference to Canadian lumber:

While business during the month has not shown special activity, still there have been quite a number of important lines of goods disposed of at prices which on the whole may be said to be well maintained. If there is weakness anywhere it is perhaps more evident in first quality pine deals and sidings, recent transactions indicating some such tendency, and it has come as a surprise to the trade, the news that 10 per cent. over last year's prices has already been paid for next season's delivery. Nowadays, Canadian pine has more opposition to face in the shape of kauri, Californian redwood, poplar, &c., and whether prices can be forced up much higher than they are at present is a moot point; certainly another advance will still further restrict the consumption in this market. The import of spruce during the past month or two has been considerable, and stocks in hand are now heavy, but prices are wonderfully well maintained notwithstanding.

WHITE OR YELLOW PINE.—The imports during the month totalled 2150 loads, comprising 1700 loads waney and 450 loads square white pine, the bulk of which was on contract and sold before arrival to the shipbuilders. The demand has been quiet, and there have been no sales of any importance. Stocks of first quality are low, but second class is more plentiful, and slow to move.

RED PINE.—There has been an import of 74 loads, and the deliveries have been on the usual small scale. The stock is moderate and sufficient for all requirements.

OAK—The import consists of 300 loads from Quebec and about 200 loads from the Southern States. The demand continues quiet, and the deliveries from the ponds are of a retail character.

ELM—The import amounts to about 200 loads. There have been a number of enquiries during the month, and a few good lines have been placed at fair prices. While the stock in the aggregate is heavy the stock of really good 900-feet wood is low.

QUEBEC BIRCH The import for November has been about 250 loads, most of which went into store owing to the very slack demand ruling at present. The stock on hand is quite ample for prospective requirements for some time to come, the furniture trade unfortunately showing no signs of revival.

In Lower Port birch there is very little doing and quotations are merely nominal around about 17d. for 15-inch average. The stock on hand is considerable.

ASH—The import continues on a small scale, and it is well that this is so, as the demand is of the most languid description imaginable. There are logs in store which have been there for not less than three years, and they must entail a heavy loss to the importer when finally disposed of. In American round ash, the stock is large and more than sufficient for the small demand existing.

DEALS, &c. A dull feeling has characterized business during the month, and the deliveries from the public yards have fallen off considerably. Prices of pine deals, though nominally unaltered, have a downward tendency, and sidings, owing to the heavy imports, are easier. Current values are as under: Broad first pine deals, £32 to £34; 11-inch, £29 to £31, ends and non-dimensions, £22 to £24; second pine deals, 11-inch and up, £19 to £21 10s.; ends and non-dimensions, £13 to £14 10s. Third pine deals, 11-inch and up, £13 to £14 10s; ends and non-dimensions, £10 to £11. Red pine deals, 9 and 11 inch, £11 10s. to £12 10s.; narrows, £8 10s. to £9 10. First pine sidings, 9 and 10 inch, £24 to £25; 11 to 12 inch, £25 to £26; 13 to 14 inch, £28 to £29. Spruce deals, 9-inch and up, £8 15s. to £9 10s.; 7 and 8-inch, £7 5s. to £8 5s. Lower Port pine spruce, 7 and 8 inch, £7 to £7 15s.; 9-inch and up, £8 5s. to £8 15s.