# ANADA UMBERMAN WEEKLY FDITION

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THIS PAPER REACHES REGULARLY THE PRINCIPAL LUMBER MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS THROUGHOUT CANADA, AND WHOLESALE BUYERS IN THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN MARKETS.

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Weekly Lumberman, put/ished every Wednesday. Contains reliable and up-to-date market conditions and tendencies in the principal manufacturing districts and leading domestic and foreign wholesale markets. A weekly medium of information and communication between Canadian timber and lumber manufacturers and exporters and the purchasers of timber products at home and abroad.

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## CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS. ONTARIO.

Taking the lumber trade of Ontario as whole, it cannot be said to be in a satisfactory condition. There is some movement of lumber, but it is not of large volume, and the prices realized in most cases leave a very small margin of profit. The stocks of pine which have been accumulating for the past two years continue to increase. Manufacturers have been holding off for higher prices, but these have not materialized, and the result is that dealers are this year willing to accept even a lower figure than was offered last year, in the hope of reducing the quantity of stock in their hands. This has resulted in a general depreciation in values of the lower grades, but for the best lumber prices have been well maintained. There are some points at which there is considerable activity, but it is mostly in the case of mills manufacturing deals and lumber for the British market. Shipments 'from the Ottawa valley are quite brisk, and the exports from Montreal show that large quantities are going forward each week. Of the United States market nothing encouraging can be said. The only requests for lumber are for such stocks as are in very limited supply. For hemlock there is a fair demand. Hardwoods have shown a downward tendency within the past week. Prices remain firm, but demand weak. The encouraging features of the fall trade are the good crop prospects and abundant yield of fruit. The latter should create a demand for cooperage stock.

# QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

So far as the foreign lumber trade of the province of Quebec is concerned, it can justly be said to be in a healthy condition. Many mills are yet busy filling contracts for stock made at good figures early in the season, although some trouble has been encountered in getting the logs out on

account of low water. From the vicinity of the Ottawa valley shipments are brisk, and available space in the steamers is readily taken up. Of local trade nothing encouraging is reported. There is little building in progress or in contemplation. In New Brunswick the situation has not changed. Last week two lumber cargoes cleared from St. John for South America, one for France, and three for British ports, besides a fleet of small cargoes for the United States. Seven steamers are now loading deals at that port for transatlantic points. The United States market shows signs of further weakening. The supply of spruce is largely in excess of the demand, and prices are being cut to effect sales.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MANITOBA.

The demand for British Columbia lumber for China has given strength to the market, there being several vessels loaddifferent mills destined for that ing a country. The Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co.'s mill is running day and night, and a large portion of its product will be shipped to China. Several vessels are also loading for Australia. Local consumption is fair, although a large amount of capital has been withdrawn from circulation for the purpose of being invested in mining properties. Collections are therefore difficult to make, but nevertheless the lumber trade will be one of the industries benefitted by the mining boom now on. In Manitoba crop prospects are good, and lumber is considered in a favorable condition, although sales are not heavy.

#### UNITED STATES.

Public attention is being turned to political conventions, to the detriment of business. So far as lumber is concerned there is little business which requires attention, and dealers realize that in the consideration of the many important questions affecting the commerce of the country there is about as much to be gained as in trying to effect lumber sales. During the month of July, which is usually a quiet one, there has been pronounced quietude, which is attributed in some degree to the political situation, and which it is thought will pass away before the month of August has closed. While orders for lumber have been withheld of late, it is not possible that this condition can prevail for any length of time, as the approach of the fall season and the harvesting of the crops must result in a fair demand. A favorable feature is the abundant corn crop, which will necessitate the

erection of a large number of corn cribs. The resumption of manufacturing industries at an early date will also cause a steady consumption of lumber. The main sources of complaint with respect to white pine are an oversupply of stock and low prices. Buyers are pursuing a conservative policy. Good common and better is in fair request, and prices have been maintained. In the lower grades there is a marked depression, and docks are over crowded. In the hardwood market oak is the leader, but even in that wood buying is restricted. In the Eastern States the overproduction of spruce continues to increase, and cutting of prices is being indulged in. A movement has been commenced to curtail the output. At Buffalo there is some demand for black ash, elm and chestnut.

### FOREIGN.

The quietude of the summer season is being felt by the lumber trade of Great Britain, the result being a slight falling off in the demand for lumber. The firm tone of the market, however, has been maintained, as dealers recognize that the inactivity is only temporary and cannot be taken as a general weakening of the demand. The f. o. b. business has been practically concluded for the year, and agents anticipate little new business. For dimension stuff there is a fair demand, while in connection with spruce it is stated that stocks are as yet light, late arrivals having gone into consumption immediately, and cargoes now on the way will be eagerly sought for. Pitch pine is improving in price, and shippers are closing sales for next season at an advance of two pence per cubic foot. The market is practically in the hands of manufacturers and shippers. Although the quantity of pitch pine in stock at Liverpool is large, it is said to be of small average and poor quality, and not such as would command a ready sale even at the time of a brisk market. At Glasgow trade is not brisk, although pine and spruce deals are moving well and some sales of pitch pine have been made at good figures. In hardwoods there is very little doing. The stock of mahogany in first hands is small, and transactions by wholesale dealers are necessarily very few in number. Steamship chartering is not as busk as it was a few weeks ago, and the call now is principally for small tonnage.

The Timber Trades Journal, of London, Eng., urges precaution on the part of Canadian shippers lest the British market should be overstocked. While values are certain to be maintained for the present season, a large influx of stock this fall