

COOPERAGE STOCK.

Writing of the cooperage stock market the Sutherland, Innes Company, of Chatham, Ont., say:

As far as Southern Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Ontario are concerned, the heavy snow that came on top of the mud before there was any frost in the ground prevented lumbering this season, and what logs were taken out were only taken out at great expense, and in very small quantities. The stocks of last year's manufacture at the mills are practically nil, everything having been cleaned out, except

a few No. 2 staves, and very few of them are now left on hand.

We expect that staves and heading will be high for some time to come. Hoops we hardly expect will maintain present prices, although they should keep pretty near the present prices to make the manufacture of hoops a profitable business to the mill men.

The future price of staves for the balance of the year, after the first of July, will of course be governed by the season that we have for trucking, and the prospects for an apple crop. If there is a good

season for trucking and no apple crop in sight, staves will be easier towards the latter part of the season. From the 1st of August or a little earlier, provided there is an apple crop in sight, there will be no decrease in the price of either staves or heading, and while hoops may not decline for some time, as soon as an apple crop is assured, they will undoubtedly go up again.

The question at the present time for the mill men is how to get sufficient timber to run their mills, and this is a very serious problem this year.

With regard to tight-barrel stock, all classes of this stock are very scarce at present. There are quite a few staves and heading in the woods, but it has been impossible to get them out, and until there is a dry spell there is bound to be a scarcity of all classes of tight-barrel material. The floods in the South have almost stopped the production there. The consequence is that prices are very stiff, and while we do not think this will continue very long, we look for higher prices for all classes of tight-barrel stock this season than were obtained during the past season.

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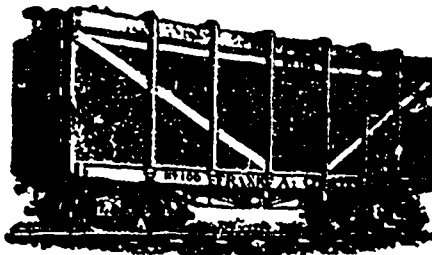
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