

Foreign trade is active and many vessels are loading.

Favorable reports continue to be received from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where much of this season's cut of deals has been contracted for. New Brunswick cedar shingles are suffering in price. Some of the mills are said to be asking \$3.20 and \$3.25 for extras, \$2.75 and \$2.80 for clears, and \$2.40 to \$2.50 for second clears. Even at these prices many of the yards are still in want of shingles, as the mills have contracts in advance and are unable to fill new orders.

UNITED STATES.

Reports from every section of the United States are peculiarly unanimous as to the strength of the lumber market. Some of the northern operators are declining to consider orders for a time, having more business than they can properly look after. Although prices usually weaken during the months of July and August, this year the reverse has been experienced. Minneapolis manufacturers have just made an advance of 50 cents per thousand on lumber and 25 cents on lath, and a further advance is said to be very probable. In Chicago, short piece stuff is selling from the yards at \$14, while a few years ago from \$9 to \$10 was about the average price. Eastern wholesale dealers report numerous orders which they are unable to fill on account of scarcity of stock. At Buffalo practically all stocks are low, and particularly low grade cutting-up pine. Box makers are using Norway to make up for the scarcity of white pine.

No material change has taken place in the spruce market. A meeting of manufacturers was held at Boston last week, at which an advance in prices was discussed, but beyond adopting more stringent terms of payment, no action was taken.

The hardwood situation has not been relieved to any extent. Stock is moving, from the mills as fast as manufactured, and dealers are unable to stock up in preparation for the fall trade. There is a brisk demand for all sorts of shingles and lath, the latter especially being very scarce. The prices adopted at Buffalo will be found elsewhere.

FOREIGN.

The general tone of the British trade is good. Building work is proceeding with unusual briskness, and there is a heavy retail demand for sawn and planed lumber. Merchants have so little stock to offer f.o.b. that few of them can quote prices. A writer in the Timber Trades Journal remarks that he never recollects a similar state of the market, and the general opinion is that next year prices will be even stronger than at present. The difficulty of getting good 3x9 and 11 inch Baltic deals is assisting the pine and spruce market.

The official returns published by the Board of Trade present some interesting figures. During the six months ending June 30th this year, the quantity of sawn and hewn wood goods imported into Great Britain was in excess of that of last year by 1,460,213 loads, valued at \$1,825,889. From Canada there was imported during this period 368,611 loads of sawn timber and 25,744 loads of hewn timber, against 222,850 and 14,490 loads respectively in the first six months of last year. The total from all countries this year was

3,987,693 loads. Notwithstanding this heavy import, the stocks on hand at the present time are little in excess of those held at the same time last year, which shows the great volume of consumption.

In France trade is also active, goods having been sold during the past month at prices which have not been equalled in the memory of those engaged in the trade.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

John Dewar & Sons, of St. George, N. B., have loaded eleven vessels with lumber this season.

W. T. Quickfall, of Glen Allan, Ont., has just shipped a car-load of basswood lumber to Havre, France.

It is the intention of Alger, Smith & Company to continue operations next winter on their Pigeon river limits.

The Huntsville Lumber Co. have purchased from J. J. Long, of Collingwood, berth No. 8, Finlayson, paying \$74,500 for the limits.

On July 14th the spruce manufacturers met at Boston and advanced the price of lath ten cents, making prices \$2.35 for 1 1/2 in., and \$2.50 for 1 3/8 in.

The Mikado Gold Mining Co., of Rat Portage, Ont., wants tenders for the delivery before the close of navigation of 2,500 cords of tamarac and jack pine cord wood.

A report from Quebec states that owing to the carrying away of bridges and the breaking of booms at St. Joseph and St. Francois, 900 cords of pulpwood are adrift.

G. O. Buchanan, of Kaslo, B. C., purposes establishing a saw mill at Duncan City. He has been given a contract to cut 2,000,000 of bridge timber for bridges along the Kaslo and Slocan railway.

Howard & Craig, of Sherbrooke, Que., have recently purchased 6,000 acres of choice timber lands in the counties of Beauce and Dorchester. The timber will be floated down the Chaudiere river to their mill at Beauce Junction.

The steamship Laburn cleared from Parrsboro, N. S., on July 17th for Manchester, with 3,447,496 feet of deals, ends and scantlings, shipped by M. L. Tucker for W. M. Mackay. This is the largest cargo of lumber ever shipped from Nova Scotia.

At Boston brown ash of the better grade is in good demand, and the supply is practically nil. Firsts and seconds bring \$38 to \$40. Very little thick elm is offered, and 3-inch is particularly scarce. 1-inch is quoted at \$28 to \$30, and thicker at \$32 to \$33.

There is an extraordinary demand in Michigan for cedar. It is almost impossible to get hold of the stock, in spite of the largest output last winter ever known, and prices have nearly doubled. The telegraph and telephone companies are using it in large quantities.

The steamer Morven sailed from Montreal on Saturday last for Glasgow, having on board 1,617 standards of deals and timber, consigned by McLean, Kennedy & Co. The steamship Hudawell is loading a cargo of timber and deals for U. K. on account of same firm.

Since last report the following rafts have been entered at the office of the Supervisor of Cutlers, Quebec: By McArthur Bros., oak, pine, ash, etc., at New Liverpool Cove; Gillies Bros Co., square and waney pine, at Bridgewater Cove; McLeod & McNeil, waney pine, at Sharples Cove; James McBurney & Co., waney pine, at Upper Sillery.

In other seasons, considerable business has been done in Northern Wisconsin in the sawing of deals for export to Great Britain, but there has nothing whatever been done in white pine deals this season. The only transaction on foreign account has been 600,000 feet of Norway, which was cut to specified dimensions for a Canadian concern on Liverpool account. This is due to the prosperous domestic trade.

Shipments of lumber from St. John, N.B., to the United Kingdom and continent during the first six months of 1898 aggregated about 46,000,000 feet of spruce and 451,000 feet of birch. During the same months of this year, the spruce shipped to the United Kingdom alone amounted to 67,762,544 feet, and the birch to 2,603,674 feet.

Following is a comparative statement of timber, &c., measured and culled at Quebec to July 25th, 1899:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Waney white pine, cu. feet.	1,710,512	1,100,134	1,168,534
Square white pine, cu. feet.	447,653	750,720	275,915
Red pine, cu. feet.	107,188	133,329	83,351
Oak, cu. feet.	1,038,416	1,89,401	429,559
Elm, cu. feet.	470,841	345,487	4,5,824
Ash, cu. feet.	86,085	15,826	54,146
Basswood, cu. feet.	5		
Butternut, cu. feet.	673	795	60
Birch and Maple, cu. feet.	183,993	106,460	231,575
Tamarac			415

At a recent sale held by Churchill & Sim, London, Eng., Canadian goods sold as follows: 12-13 ft., 3x9 fourth quality pine, \$6 15s; 9 11 ft., 3x9, \$6 5s; 12-16 ft., 1 1/2 x 10, first quality spruce, \$18; 12-16 ft., 1 1/2 x 10-20, \$17 10s; 12-16 ft., 1 1/2 x 9, \$17 15s; 16 ft., 1 1/2 x 8, \$17 5s. 12-13 ft., 3x11 third quality spruce, \$7 15s; 8-13 ft., 2x4 assorted spruce, \$7; 13 ft., 3x9, third quality, \$8; 9 17 ft., 3x11, second quality, \$9 15s.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company, of Saginaw, Mich., last week sold 800,000 feet of box lumber at \$13 50, which is the highest price at which box has yet been sold. Two years ago \$9 would have been regarded as a high price for the same grade of lumber. Generally, box is quoted at \$12 and \$12.50. Log run is worth \$15 to \$17 for Canadian stock, and \$16 to \$22 for Michigan stock, according to quality. Norway is held at \$9.50 and higher, and mill culls at \$8 to \$10.

A sale of dry stock was recently made at Duluth, Minn., which shows the extreme prices paid for lumber at the head of the lakes. The prices were as follows: 4 to 10 in. No. 2 common, \$12.50; 12 in. and up, \$13; 4 to 10 in. No. 1 common, \$15; 12 in. and wider, \$18; 4 in. and up No. 4 boards, \$8 75 - in all about 4,000,000 feet, besides which there was a lot of No. 4 boards in another sale at \$9. In January last several firms sold their No. 4 boards at \$6.50, and a bill of stuff sold in March this year showed as follows: 12 in. and wider No. 1, \$16 50; 10 in., \$14.25; 8 in., \$13 50; 6 in., \$14 25; 4 in., \$12.50; No. 2, 12 in. and wider, \$12; 10 in., \$12.50; 8 in., \$9.75; 6 in., \$10.50; 4 in., \$4.50.

The Liverpool correspondent of the Timber Trades Journal, referring to the pine and spruce market, says: Perhaps the weakest item in Quebec goods is still pine deals, boards, sidings, strips, and similar forms of partly-manufactured pine goods. The demand of last winter was not sufficiently large to make any notable impression upon the stock left over from the 1898 season. These now figure in the Liverpool stock at 15,649 standards, against 11,020 standards in 1898, and 5,834 in 1897. With such a load as this to carry, the market is feeling the effects of the overweight. Spruce deals continue on their upward move, and now shippers are not only asking 25 6d to 55 per standard more, but are even indifferent sellers at this advance. It is the smaller ports round the coast where the pinch is felt more severely, for the great difficulty is now to secure small sailing vessels of 250 to 300 standards' capacity. The large centres of the trade, which can accomo-

date steamers of 1,500 to 2,500 standards do not suffer in the same manner

The saw mill of Richard Norton at Grenville, near Newmarket, Ont., was burned recently, together with 20,000 feet of lumber. The damage is \$1,500, with insurance.

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Soft Elm, all thicknesses.  
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WANTED

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