

NEW BRUNSWICK CEDAR SHINGLES.

There are very few eastern shingles moving at present writing. The retail dealers are largely busy in stock-taking and figuring out last year's business, and, of course, actual consumption is light. On the other hand, the average crop of small winter mill operators are busily at work and as usual are anxious to sell each carload produced just as soon as they can get it to the railroad. Their usual course of procedure when ready to sell is to write a dozen different commission houses, offering the same shingles to all and accepting the first orders they get. Meantime, each commission dealer is offering these same shingles to the trade, and the net result of so many offering the same little lot of shingles is that the impression is created that shingles are in most abundant supply. The facts in the case are different, for at the close of last season the manufacturers were thoroughly well cleaned out, and all the small winter mills in the business running full blast for the next ten weeks, and piling up their product, cannot produce as many shingles as will be wanted for actual consumption during April and May next.

There is, therefore, absolutely no reason for any weakening of prices by standard mills; they are sure to get last season's closing figures or better if they stand firm during the next six weeks. If, on the other hand, they once commence to make any material cut in prices, they will only accelerate the downward tendency, and by giving the retailers the idea that prices have reached the top and are going down, will actually get less business than if they hold firmly to their price. People are never so ready to buy on a falling as on a rising or steady market. The best course of procedure, therefore, is for the larger operators to stand firm and allow the more irresponsible and smaller mills to market their production, after which a firm market and steady prices will rule. The indications for business along general, and more especially house building lines, the coming season, are most excellent, and after the shingle trade really starts, which is usually about April 1st, the consumption ought to keep even pace with the production. Boston quotations are about as follows for strictly standard brands: Extras, \$3.10 to \$3.15; clears, \$2.70 to \$2.75; 2nd clears, \$2.15 to \$2.25. Unknown brands are quoted probably 10 cents less on two best grades.

WHITE PINE PRODUCTION AND STOCKS.

Valuable statistics of the white pine lumber production and stocks are furnished by the last issue of the American Lumberman. The statement covers the states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and includes reports from nearly 900 mills. The total output for 1899 was 6,056,508,000 feet; 1898, 6,155,300,000; 1897, 6,233,454,000; 1896, 725,763,035. Last year, therefore, the production was about 100,000,000 feet less than the output of 1898. The decrease as compared with 1897 is 177,240,000 feet, but the figures for last year show an increase over 1896. In 1895, however, the output was 1,000,000,000 feet greater than in 1899, and for the latter year the total is 2,000,000,000 feet less than the average output for the prosperous years previous to 1892.

The total stocks of white pine at the mills on December 1, 1899, amounted to 2,728,271,000 feet, as against a total on the same date a year previous of 3,494,739,000 feet. On December 1, 1897, the total stocks at the mills amounted to 3,915,558,000 feet, or larger than the stock last year by 1,187,287,000 feet. In 1895 the total stock was 4,180,360,000 feet. Going on back through previous years, it appears that the stock on hand December 1st last was the lightest known in any year since 1890. Of the total stock, the west holds by far the greater portion, the amount of stock on hand in the Chicago district and in Michigan being only 477,000,000 feet.

The shingle cut at the mills in the same district was 2,899,310,000 in 1899, 3,030,815,000 in 1898, and 2,360,771,000 in 1897. The stock on December 1 last was 694,302,000, against 762,698,000 in 1898 and 461,734,000 in 1897.

The figures regarding lath show a curious condition. While the output has been steadily increasing for the last three years, the stock on hand on December 1 of each year shows a steady decline. The cut was 1,062,837,000 last year, 949,666,000 in 1898, and 924,047,000 in 1897. The stock on hand on December 1 last was 226,780,000, against 353,731,000 in 1898 and 412,311,000 in 1897.

The Pasco Lumber Co. has been incorporated in New York city, with a capital of \$250,000.

The Post & Emerson Co. have been incorporated, to carry on a lumber business at Oswego, N. Y.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

From Buffalo comes the report of the sale of 1,000,000 feet of box lumber, 8-inch and wider, 4-4 and 5-4, at \$20, also a large lot of log run shorts, 4 to 8 feet, at \$17.

Graham, Horne & Co., of Fort William, Ont., are understood to have been given a contract to supply 4,000,000 feet of lumber for the Ogilvie flour mill and elevator to be built at that place.

The corporation of Winnipeg desires tenders by Wednesday, February 7th, for the supply of 1,000 cords of cedar paving wood. Particulars may be obtained from C. J. Brown, city clerk.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company recently purchased 5,000,000 feet of logs cut on deeded land in the Georgian Bay district. These will be taken to the company's mill at Saginaw.

In Chicago trade in flour barrel stock is quieter than it has been, but prices remain about the same. Elm staves sell at \$7 to \$8, and heading at 5 to 5 1/2 cents. Coiled elm hoops are a trifle weaker.

Wm. Schuette & Co., of Saginaw, have contracted with Joseph Turner for 5,000,000 feet of lumber to be cut early next spring at Midland, Ont. The above firm have 12,000,000 feet of lumber in the yard at Saginaw, 10,000,000 feet on the mill docks on the Saginaw river, and 2,000,000 (Continued on page 3.)

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