north of Europe countries as well. This feeling has already restored confidence in the market, as it has been admitted for some time that unless this circumstance was brought about, prices would be likely to weaken in view of the decreased consumption. The shipments of pine from Canada to Great Britain will doubtless be considerably less than last year. Within the past fortnight there has been a slight advance in the price of pine deals, and the demand for seasoned lumber is certain to improve in the near future. The position of the spruce market is set forth in the Timber Trades Journal as follows: "The spruce market is as firm as ever, and good prices are realized for all useful sizes. At the London auctions, 2½ x 7 New Brunswick stuff fetched £9 5s, and 2 x 4, £8 10s, prices that were never reached before, and not even dreamt of a couple of years ago. From what we can see there will be a big demand all through the season. The small stock wintering has been sold long ago, and considering the big demand at the present moment, the first few cargoes that arrive —which we understand will be rather late —will soon be swallowed up. We know, for a fact, that a great many of the outports have not purchased yet, and what with the high freights ruling there is very little possibility of prices falling. All 11-in. is very scarce, and this width at any thickness will, doubtless, fetch unusually high prices when they reach the market."

STOCKS AND PRICES

At Springhill, N. B., as high as $10 per thousand is being paid for spruce logs, while the average price is $9 50.

The schooner Fred J. Wood left Vancouver, B. C., last week for Kobe, Japan, with a cargo of 800,000 feet of lumber.

The lumber exported from St. John, N. B., during the month of April was valued at $385 720, compared with $285,101 in April, 1899.

On the Lake Huron shore, and at interior railroad shipping points in Michigan, ties are selling at 22 to 25 cents. The quotation on the Saginaw river is 38 and 40 cents.

The cargo shipments of lumber from British Columbia during the first three months of this year totalled 13,110,620 feet, as compared with 6,534,404 feet for same period in 1899.

Clarke Bros., of Bear River, N. S., expect to cut at their two mills this season about 8,000,000 feet of lumber. This firm own a considerable area of spruce and hardwood limits in Nova Scotia.

The steamer Labuan is loading 3,500,-000 feet of deals at Parrsboro, N. S., for Manchester, Eng., the cargo being supplied by M. L. Tucker. The steamer Lady Iveah is loading at the same port for the east coast of Ireland.

At Buffalo cedar posts are quoted at 13 cents for 8 foot lengths, 3 to 4 inch tops; 15 cents for 4½ inch tops; 17 cents for 5 inch tops, 10 foot lengths, and 22 cents for 6 inch tops. Ties are on a basis of 52 cents for firsts, while poles are not really quotable, as many sizes are wanted.

Recent rains in Quebec have greatly assisted river driving, and the logs are making favorable progress. The Laurentide Pulp Co., of Grand Mere, took out about 900,000 logs last winter, about one-half of which is pine to be sawn into deals. The St. Maurice Co. have about 300,000 pieces to drive.

Three timber berths were sold at the crown lands office, Fredericton, N. B., last week. A six mile berth on Mersereau stream went to Hilyard Bros. & Co. at the upset price; a four and one-half mile block at the head of Salmon Brook, branch of Cain's River, to Sumner & Co., at the upset price, and a two mile block on the west side of the Magaduavic River to John E. Moore, at $8.25 per mile.

Penobscot lumber shippers are, it is said, standing by their recent agreement with relation to forwarding stock to the New York market, and in consequence a better condition of things is already in sight. Although not all of the eastern shippers were in the agreement, it was believed from the first day of the campaign, which culminated in the meeting in Bangor, that the dealers would see the wisdom of standing by the understanding that no random shipments were to be made.

THE SITUATION AT MINNEAPOLIS.

A leading manufacturer of white pine at Minneapolis, Minn., who is of the opinion that there will be no weakening in white pine prices this season, expresses himself regarding the situation as follows:

Considering present market conditions we do not see that there is any reason to believe that there will be any reduction in the present values for white pine lumber. The log situation in the whole territory manufacturing white pine at the present time is very serious. Practically all the drives are hung up and on some streams no attempt has been made to start driving. On a few streams where water was held under storage the drives have been started, but are now either abandoned or are moving so slowly that the results promise anything but an early or regular supply of logs for the mills.

This condition of affairs is not confined to any one locality, but is prevalent over almost the entire territory of Wisconsin and Minnesota. In many districts the mills are already shut down and in others they anticipate an early shut down. Locally at Minneapolis the boom company figures that it will have logs enough to last from the 20th to the 25th of this month, but in all probability all logs will be turned through by the latter date. This would mean that every mill in Minneapolis would be closed down not later than June 1. The next drive coming from Brainerd under present conditions would not reach here to be available before the middle or latter part of June. This would mean that if weather conditions do not change, and change radically, we would lose two to four weeks or longer right in the middle of the sawing season.

The terrible fire at Ottawa, Canada, means that certain districts of the eastern states will have to look west for their supply, as a large portion of this lumber was to go into the New England territory. It means that all told from 400,000,000 to 500,000,000 feet of lumber will be taken out of stock sheets when made up the end of the sawing season.

Present prices of stumpage and logs are on such a basis that a decline in present market prices for lumber would mean a serious loss to parties supplying their mills by logs bought in the open market, and the basis of values on logs means that lumber cannot be sold at less than present prices without an actual loss to the party manufacturing the logs.

General conditions of trade throughout the entire country are good, perhaps not as good as a year ago, owing to the extended labor troubles, but the volume of business taken as a whole is enormous. Although the year 1899 was a banner year in the shipment of lumber, we believe that the shipments for the year 1900 from January 1 to May 1 inclusive, will nearly, if not quite, equal those of the corresponding period last year. The general condition of the farmers throughout the entire west is prosperous, and they have to-day an enormous purchasing power. Prices on all classes of agricultural products, with the exception of wheat and oats, are high. Taking all these conditions as outlined above into consideration, we feel warranted in predicting that the year 1900 will as a whole maintain the present average price of white pine lumber.

FIRMNESS AT BOSTON.

Few changes of importance have developed in the Boston market during the past month, and the relation of supply to demand is practically the same, offerings of dry lumber being light, and the views of holders as to the value of spot lumber decidedly firm. The controlling factor in the situation, says the Lumbermen's Review, seems to be the demand for factory lumber to be used in the construction, enlargement or repair of factory and mill buildings. Where the retail yard, by reason of its surroundings, is obliged to rely upon the builders for its outlet, complaint of slow and unsatisfactory trade is quite general. Quite frequently one sees or hears the report that the season is very backward, but the mere fact that the average temperature in April was decidedly low does not constitute a valid reason why the builder with a contract in his hand should not proceed with the work, for the frost has been out of the ground from four to six weeks, and where orders have been placed for new construction as a rule the buildings are now well advanced. Investors and speculators are still laboring under severe apathetic pressure, and are planning very little in the way of new construction, though they have seen the first rift in the dense cloud of unduly inflated prices for building material in that cut of $20 per ton in nails and the general tendency to shave off something from all classes of iron products.

Factors to be reckoned with in summing up present and prospective conditions in the lumber market are strikes and politics. For some months past there have been rumors of impending strikes in the building trades, and May 1 was the date set for an uprising; but, happily, a settlement was effected in a majority of cases before that date. An eight-hour day, with a uniform wage scale, formed the basis of the demands of the unions.

The hardwoods are moving less freely, and a little more pressure is noted on the part of shippers to move their stock. This is particularly true of the varieties which originate in Canada, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan, while oak, both plain and quartered, thin ash and poplar are in good demand and firm, where prompt delivery of dry stock is called for. Mahogany is still a free seller at top figures. Local manufacturers find the American market sufficiently broad and active to absorb all offerings of dry lumber, and as a result very little is being sent abroad.

The following prices govern both rail and water shipments:—10 and 12 inch dimensions, $19.00; 9 inches and under, dimension (frames, etc,) $17.00; yard orders cut on even feet to be same price as dimension. Above prices are based on lengths not over 28 feet, and for all lumber cut to specified lengths longer than 28 feet add $1 per M for every two (2) feet or fraction thereof. 10 and 12 inch random lengths, 10 feet and up, $18.50; 2x3, 2x4, 2x5, 2x6, 2x7, and 3x4, random lengths, 10 feet and up, $15.00; all other random lengths, 9 inches and under 10 feet and up, $16.50; 1⅝ inch laths, $3.15; 1½ inch laths, $3.00; 5 inch and up merchantable boards, 8 feet and up, p. l. s., $17.00; out spruce boards p. l. s., $14.00; bundled furring random lengths p. l. s., $14.50; bundled furring clipped to same length in each bundle p. l. s., $15.00.

NEW YORK PRICES.

Following is the schedule of prices for New York delivery as adopted by the Eastern Lumber Manufacturers' Association at Bangor, Maine, on April 24th:

10 and 12 inch dimension, per M, $20; 3 x 9 inch dimension, $19; 8 inches and under, dimension, $18; 10 and 12 inch, random length, 10 feet and up, $19; special bills, 24 and 25 feet, 10 and 12 inch, $21; random, 3 x 9, $18; special bills, 24 and 25 feet, 3 x 9, $20; 2 x 3, 2 x 4, 2 x 5, 2 x 6, 2 x 7 and 3 x 4 inches, 10 feet up, random, $16; 2 x 9, 10 feet and up, random, $17.50; all other random lengths, 10 feet and up long, 8 inches and under wide, $16.50; planing one side, per M, 50 cents; planing two sides, per M, $1; planing three or four sides, per M, $1.50; planing one side and grooved, per M, $1; planing one or two sides and matched, per M, $1; butting to exact lengths, per M, extra, 50 cents; splines, extra, per M, not less than $1. Shipments to all Sound ports, fifty cents per thousand less than New York prices; terms on Sound shipments as customary heretofore.

SHIPPING MATTERS.

The following charters are reported: Bark Levuka, West Bay, N. S., to w. c. England, deals, 53s 9d; str. Westwater, 3 cargoes from St. John, N. B., to w. c. England, private terms; str. Dalmally, Pugwash, N. S., to w. c. England, private terms; str. Vimera, West Bay to w.c. England, deals, 55s; Carrsbrook, Pugwash to w.c. England, deals, 53s 9d; Samara, 1,790 tons, St. John, N. B., to Manchester or Glasgow, deals at 55s, and timber at 23s 6d.

Following are the the current rates on lumber from British Columbia points: to Sydney, 53s 9d to 55s; Melbourne or Adelaide, 63s 9d to 65s; Port Pirie, 57s 6d to 60s; Fremantle, 68s 9d to 70s; Shanghai, 75s; Kiao-Chau, 70s; Tientsin, 67s 6d to 68s 9d; Vladivostock, 70s; west coast South America, 62s 6d to 65s; Pisagua Range and Callao Range, 61s 3d to 62s 6d; South Africa, 70s to 72s 6d; U.K. or Continent, 80s to 82s 6d.

FIRES.

Kippen & Scarff's saw mill at Sycamore Siding, Ont., was destroyed by fire last week, at a loss of $2,500.

The lumber yard of Geo. Wilson & Co., at St. Catharines, Ont., was partially destroyed by fire on Saturday last.

The peg and last factory of John Lewis & Sons, at Lewiston, N.S., was burned recently. There was an insurance of $5,500.