

the year closes with high prices and the outlook favorable for a continuation of a firm and advancing market. This applies to almost every class of lumber, with white pine occupying the first position. The upper grades are so scarce that it is impossible to find a sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the market, while the lower grades are gradually becoming stronger. It is reported that in Toronto prices of the lower qualities have recently been advanced quite sharply, and dealers are predicting a further advance on some items within the next month. It is estimated that Chicago dealers who heretofore bought most of their stock at Duluth and Ashland have purchased at least one hundred million feet of white pine lumber at interior mills to be shipped to their yards next season. In Cleveland dealers are asking an advance of from \$1 to \$2 a thousand on select, fine common and No. 1 and No. 2 shop. Numerous enquiries are in the market for hemlock lumber. The base price in New York is now established at \$15, while during the last week prices have advanced in North Tonawanda until some items are selling at the base price of \$16 and as high as \$17 in a few instances. The hardwood market continues to show a fair degree of activity. There is a good demand for basswood, elm, and black ash. At a meeting of the Chicago Hardwood Lumber Exchange held last week, discussion revealed the fact that firsts and seconds basswood, birch and ash were extremely scarce, also that many of the dealers were selling some varieties of lumber at less than they could be replaced. Accordingly, advances were decided upon.

GREAT BRITAIN.

As usual at this period of the year, the business doing in lumber is of a quiet character, yet the British market seems to be breaking away from the weakness and uncertainty which characterized it through the greater part of the past year. Some shippers have not yet submitted

their price lists for next season. The question now seems to be how much higher prices will go for the first open-water stocks. This is particularly the case in respect to Canadian lumber, which is showing marked strength. Considerable quantities of spruce deals are said to have been bought for next year at high figures, but even if freights can be obtained at the present rates, which are extremely low, the opening prices are not likely to be below those now ruling. The stock of spruce in all the United Kingdom ports is abnormally low, especially in Liverpool and the Bristol Channel. A very light stock of 11 x 3 and 9 x 3 is held. While pine deals are in heavier stock than spruce, they are rapidly going into consumption. The stock of waxy pine is very small and the prices asked for next season's production are said to be the highest ever known. The Importers Section of the Timber Trade Federation took no action at their meeting last week regarding prices, on the ground that it was not practicable to pass a resolution defining any particular course.

SOCKS AND PRICES.

John Jamieson expects to have half a million feet of lumber to ship from Bloomfield, N.B., in the spring.

The city of Winnipeg is asking for tenders up to January 9th for the supply of from 500 to 1,000 cords of cedar.

John Whalen, of Sussex, N.B., who is lumbering for Mr. Mooney, of St. John, expects to get out 2,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company are announced to have sold to Quebec shippers 200,000 cubic feet of waxy board pine to be taken out this winter in the Georgian Bay district.

The Dominion Government is asking for tenders up to January 13th for a permit to cut timber on berths No 995 and 996, in the Province of Manitoba, and until January 20th for a permit to cut on berth No. 998. The two first berths contain an area of 9 square miles each, and the last berth an area of 160 acres.

LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT.
A correspondent writes THE CANADA LUMBERMAN regarding lumbering operations in the Lake of the Woods district as follows:

Lumbering operations in this district are much greater this season than heretofore. The large crop in Manitoba has stimulated the lumber business, and I am looking forward to next season being the most active in our history. There will be cut about 35 million feet, board measure, of saw logs. Labor is in good demand and very fair wages are being paid. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has let contracts for one and one-quarter million ties and about 10,000 piles and one-quarter million fence posts. This is much in excess of former contracts and points to railway construction in the west. The Northern Railway Company has let contracts for one-quarter million ties and a large quantity of telegraph poles and fence posts. The Northern Railway, or what is known as the Rainy River Railway, is going to open up a large territory, well covered with all kinds of timber. There is a large portion of the territory on which no pine timber has been cut, and I have no doubt that the time is approaching when it will be sold, as the danger from fire is so great along the line of the railway that it necessitates the disposal of the timber in close proximity to the line.

There is a demand for timber of less value than heretofore, by reason of connection with Winnipeg. Cord wood along the valley of the Rainy River is now worth \$2.50, with a large demand.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)
Available stocks are scarce and prices firm in the local lumber market. Business is dull, a dullness attributable to the scarcity of supply and the cessation in manufacturing operations. The principal planing mills have closed down, to resume business about Jan. 5th. At present all hands are engaged stock-taking, reviewing the year's business and planning for the future.

Shingles are not to be had in any considerable quantities, and lath is very

scarce. Good strips and shorts are also about sold out, and the same may be said of 1 1/4, 1 1/2 and 2 inch sidings. Nearly all this stock has passed into third hands, albeit the builder and other consumers.

Circulars sent from a leading mill on Monday quoted prices suggestive of the Klondyke. The prices at the mill ran as follows: No. 1 white pine lath, \$3.50; No. 2 ditto, \$3.25; No. 1 red pine lath, \$3.25; No. 2 ditto, \$3.00. It is a question whether these prices can be obtained. Prices already quoted rule in other lines. Everything points to an upward movement, however, as the available stocks are small.

Reports from the limits go to show that the weather conditions are now more favorable than they were earlier in the season. All the larger lakes are fit for traffic and recent thaws have improved the roads.

Mr. T. C. Elmitt, of the firm of Hurdman & Elmitt, left last Monday on a business trip to Alabama and Tennessee. He will be away until the middle of January.

Notice has been given that an appeal will be entered by Mr. Alexander Fraser, defendant in the celebrated suit of De-zouche vs. Fraser. Judge Leavergue gave an order calling for defendant a statement of proceeds of sale of limits owned by the firm of Fraser & McCoshan; the latter was Mrs. De-zouche's first husband. The limits were sold after his death. Proceedings were instituted by the widow to determine what share if any her children, the minor heirs of McCoshan; were entitled to. About \$500 is involved.

DOORS AND MOULDINGS.

A large buyer of Canadian white pine doors and mouldings is open to contract with a mill for their entire output of No. 3 and 4 qualities of doors and all their mouldings during 1902. Write in the first instance to Empire, care CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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