

TRADE REVIEW.

Office of CANADA LUMBERMAN,
April, 10, 1894.

THE GENERAL SURVEY.

GENERAL spring activity is observable in lumber business at all points. The men, have, in most cases come out of the woods and preparations are being made for the drives. Just how successfully these will come along is a matter of some uncertainty at the present time. From reports received from the Ottawa section, it is anticipated that there will be considerable logs hung up this season. The weather broke up suddenly, and left loggers at some points in an awkward predicament. The quantity cut in Ottawa will run, probably, 20 to 25% less than last year's cut. In the Georgian Bay territory, whilst some individual lumbermen have put in as large a cut as last year, yet, taken altogether, there has not been the same activity, and there will be a decrease in the quantity at those points. In another page of the LUMBERMAN we have noted the fact that Howry & Sons, large Michigan lumbermen, will operate the S. G. Smith saw mill at Fenelon Falls this season, which means that lumber will be cut there that would otherwise have gone to this firm's mills in Michigan. The decrease in the cut here is finding a counterpart in Michigan, Wisconsin, and other states, the financial depression of the past year being suggestive of caution.

This decrease in the output of logs from the bush, will not have any effect on the market, for a large quantity of lumber has been held in the United States owing to the depression and consequent decrease of consumption. It is hardly to be expected prices will be maintained at the same figures as last year.

As regards the local trade of Ontario we are hearing favorable reports from the rural sections. There is no startling boom, but dealers have figured so closely for months back, that with anything like a revival in trade they will find it necessary to stock up their yards, and there will be a fine trade done throughout the province this spring and summer. So far as Toronto is concerned building operations will be slow and lumber, will, of course, be in sympathy with this dullness.

British Columbia lumbermen are anticipating a fair season's trade. In that province, both in shingles and lumber, the trade has had to fight a war of price-cutting for some time. This spirit worked havoc with the shingle trade, but a combination was formed a month or more ago, which has placed that branch of lumbering in an improved position and our advices are that the combination is holding firm. The local lumber mills have come together and are in hopes of thwarting the cut-throat policy pursued for some time. No combination has been formed but a new scale of prices has been fixed, which we understand has been agreed upon by all. An important feature of the new arrangement is, that all persons purchasing lumber will be required to furnish security for the payment of their bills. This arrangement will have the effect of putting the contractors on a better basis, for it will prevent unscrupulous men from taking contracts at ruinously low rates, which in the main has cost the mills heavy losses. The export trade of British Columbia is not showing any very surprising signs of improvement, freights are lower than they have ever been before, but foreign buyers are few. A revival of business in South America, China, New South Wales and Australia is much needed to help the export trade. A considerable portion of last year's cut of shingles still remain on hand and it is not thought that there will be a very large shingle trade done this year.

The opinion has been expressed by Mr. Kennedy, the well-known New Brunswick lumberman, that trade in the lower provinces will be better this year, owing to an expected improvement of lumber business in the United Kingdom.

UNITED STATES.

Were it to be a case of making comparisons between conditions of the lumber market on the opening of spring trade this year with conditions of a year ago the contrast would be very marked. Buyers were then thick as the proverbial mosquito in the summer months

and sellers could be as saucy as they liked without fear of losing sales or not securing their price. Nothing of this kind exists to-day. From all leading lumber centres comes the report of extreme carefulness and caution. What we say under the heading of Saginaw presents as dull a feature of the market as is found anywhere at Tonamanda and Buffalo there is a little less apathy with lumbermen, but still no activity. Not at any point is there a strong desire to do any large buying. Dealers are buying as they want stock, but do not care to stock up and carry any volume. All along, prices have held up as would hardly have been expected throughout a continuous dull period, but the impression grows that this pertinacity will not continue and that prices will break. No doubt, it is in anticipation of a movement of this kind that many buyers are holding off at the present time. Lumbermen do not hesitate, whatever may be their politics, to attribute a large share of the dullness to the tariff bill. Two months ago it was taken for granted that the Wilson bill would have become law almost right away and whether that would have meant free lumber as it looked then or something else the matter would have been definite. But political complications now makes the outlook very uncertain and politicians apparently would talk the question all summer, though this conduct might send business to the dogs.

FOREIGN.

Signs are not wanting that the lumber trade of Great Britain will show a marked improvement this summer. The feeling in this direction is stronger than it has been for some time. Certainly the period of depression has been a very continued one and commerce, generally, is still far from active, but if no untoward condition arise in the shape of a strike or something of that character, it is thought a good deal of lumber will be distributed during the next few months. This is the view that is entertained by our Canadian lumbermen, who have large dealings in the United Kingdom. Quite encouraging news comes from South America and it is believed that from the Ottawa section and also from British Columbia a large volume of lumber will go out to South America the present season. So deep has been the commercial depression that has overshadowed Australia for the past three years that it is hardly safe to predict too much of a revival, but it is believed that things have taken a turn and this important field of export will commence to call for a good share of lumber from Canada.

HARDWOODS.

Local hardwood men with whom we have talked do not express any reason for complaint with the business that they are doing. Nearly all find a good market for whatever output they are able to complete. Taking the broader field, there are some signs in connection with the export of hardwood lumber that call for caution. We are told that in foreign markets, Germany for example, that altogether too heavy consignments of hardwoods have gone forward lately, and this fact is causing some suspicion in the minds of foreign lumbermen. The report is given of a Germany firm that it is said has 10,000 walnut logs on hand. These people say that in March 1893, they had a stock of about 2,000 walnut logs on hand, they have this year 12,000. Other indications seem to tell of a demoralized condition of affairs in Germany and elsewhere.

TORONTO, ONT.

TORONTO, April 10, 1894.

CAR OR CARGO LOTS.

1 1-4 in. cut up and better.....	33 00	36 00
1X10 and 12 dressing and better.....	20 00	22 00
1X10 and 12 mill run.....	16 00	17 00
1X10 and 12 common.....	13 00	14 00
1X10 and 12 spruce culls.....	10 00	11 00
1X10 and 12 mill culls.....	10 00	11 00
1 inch clear and picks.....	28 00	32 00
1 inch dressing and better.....	20 00	22 00
1 inch siding mill run.....	14 00	15 00
1 inch siding common.....	12 00	13 00
1 inch siding ship culls.....	11 00	12 00
1 inch siding mill culls.....	9 00	10 00
Cullscantling.....	8 00	9 00
1 1-2 and thicker cutting up plank.....	24 00	26 00
1 inch strips 4 in. to 8 in. mill run.....	14 00	15 00
1 inch strips, common.....	12 00	13 00
1 1-4 inch flooring.....	16 00	17 00
1 1-2 inch flooring.....	16 00	17 00
XXX shingles, 16 inch.....	2 50	2 60
XX shingles 16 inch.....	1 50	1 60
Lath, No. 1.....	2 15	2 25
Lath, No. 2.....	1 80	1 85

YARD QUOTATIONS.

Mill cull boards and scantling.....	10 00	
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.....	13 00	
Stocks.....	16 00	
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.....	14 00	
" " " 18 ft.....	15 00	
" " " 20 ft.....	16 00	
" " " 22 ft.....	17 00	
" " " 24 ft.....	19 00	
" " " 26 ft.....	20 00	
" " " 28 ft.....	22 00	
" " " 30 ft.....	24 00	
" " " 32 ft.....	27 00	
" " " 34 ft.....	29 00	
" " " 36 ft.....	31 00	
" " " 38 ft.....	33 00	
" " " 40 to 44 ft.....	37 00	
Cutting up planks, 1 and thicker, dry.....	25 00	28 00
" " board.....	18 00	24 00
Dressing blocks.....	16 00	20 00
Picks Am. inspection.....	30 00	

HARDWOODS—PER M. FEET CAR LOTS.

Ash, white, 1 to 2 in.....	\$18 00	\$20 00
" " 2 1/2 to 4.....	20 00	24 00
" " black, 1.....	1 1/2	16 00
Birch, sq., 1.....	2.....	17 00
" " 4x4.....	8x8	20 00
" " red, x.....	2.....	20 00
" " yellow, 1.....	4.....	22 00
Basswood, 1.....	1 1/4	15 00
" " 1 1/2.....	2.....	16 00
Butternut, 1.....	1 1/2	23 00
" " 2.....	3.....	25 00
Chestnut, 1.....	2.....	25 00
Cherry, 1.....	1 1/2	50 00
" " 2.....	4.....	60 00
Elm, soft, 1.....	1 1/2	\$11 00
" " rock, 1.....	2.....	12 00
" " 1 1/2.....	3.....	14 00
Hickory, 1.....	1 1/2	3.....
Maple, 1.....	1.....	1 1/2
" " 2.....	4.....	17 00
Oak, red, p'n 1.....	2.....	1 1/2
" " 2.....	4.....	28 00
" " white, 1.....	2.....	1 1/2
" " 2.....	4.....	28 00
" " quard 1.....	2.....	4.....
Walnut, 1.....	3.....	48 00
Whitewood, 1.....	3.....	85 00
" " 2.....	2.....	32 00

OTTAWA, ONT.

OTTAWA, April 10, 1894.

Pine, good sidings, per M feet, b.m.....	\$32 00	40 00
Pine, good strips, " ".....	27 00	35 00
Pine, good shorts, " ".....	20 00	27 00
Pine, 2nd quality sidings, per M feet, b.m.....	20 00	25 00
Pine, 2nd quality strips, " ".....	18 00	22 00
Pine, 2nd quality shorts, " ".....	15 00	18 00
Pine, shipping cull stock, " ".....	14 00	16 00
Pine, box cull stock, " ".....	11 00	13 00
Pine, s.c. strips and sidings " ".....	11 00	14 00
Pine, mill cull.....	8 00	10 00
Lath, per M.....	1 60	1 90

QUEBEC, QUE.

QUEBEC, April 10, 1894.

WHITE PINE—IN THE RAFT.

For inferior and ordinary according to average, quality etc., measured off.....	14	@ 18
For fair average quality, according to average, etc., measured off.....	16	20
For good and good fair average, " ".....	23	27
For superior " ".....	28	30
In shipping order " ".....	29	35
Waney board, 18 to 19 inch " ".....	30	36
Waney board, 19 to 21 inch " ".....	37	40

RED PINE—IN THE RAFT.

Measured off, according to average and quality.....	14	28
In shipping order, 35 to 45 feet.....	22	30

OAK—MICHIGAN AND OHIO.

By the dram, according to average and quality.....	45	51
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ELM.

By the dram, according to average and quality, 45 to 50 feet.....	30	32
" " " 30 to 35 feet.....	25	28

ASH.

14 inches and up, according to average and quality.....	30	34
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BIRCH.

16 inch average, according to average and quality.....	20	23
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TAMARAC.

Square, according to size and quality.....	17	19
Flatted, " ".....	15	18

STAVES.

Merchantable Pipe, according to qual. and sp'ct'n—nominal.....	\$330	\$350
W. O. Punccheon, Merchantable, according to quality.....	90	100

DEALS.

Bright, according to mill specification, \$115 to \$123 for 1st, \$78 to \$82 for 2nd, and \$37 to \$42 for 3rd quality.....		
Bright spruce, according to mill specification, \$40 to \$43 for 1st, \$27 to \$28 for 2nd, \$23 to \$25 for 3rd, and \$19 to \$21 for 4th quality.....		

SAGINAW, MICH.

SAGINAW, Mich., April 10th.—More so than at other points, the spring season opens up with little evidence of life in the lumber trade. Few sales are being made and the disposition is firm with many buyers to hold off in anticipation of a break in prices. The statement is made that log run is selling now at probably \$2 below price of a year ago. From \$13 to \$20 are quotations on log run. \$8.50 and up is being asked for the Norway bill stuff and \$11 and \$11.50 for boxes. The reports of trade that reach this point from the East do not give encouragement for large trade. Affairs there, we are told, are dull. No alterations in shingle quotations is to be noted.

FINISHING LUMBER—ROUGH.

Uppers, 1, 1 1/4 and 1 1/2.....	45 00	Fine common, 1 in.....	35 00
2 in.....	46 00	1 1/4 and 1 1/2 in.....	36 00
Selects, 1 in.....	40 00	2 in.....	37 00
1 1/4 and 1 1/2.....	41 00	C, 7, 8 and 9 in.....	30 00
2 in.....	42 00		

SIDING.

Clear, 1/2 in.....	24 00	C, 1/2 in.....	10 00
3/4 in.....	28 00	3/4 in.....	34 00
Select, 1/2 in.....	21 00	No. 1, 1/2 in.....	13 00
3/4 in.....	24 00	3/4 in.....	23 00

TIMBER, JOIST AND SCANTLING.

2x4 to 10x10, 12, 14 and 16 ft.....	\$11 00	20 ft.....	14 00
18 ft.....	13 00	22 and 24 ft.....	15 00
For each additional 2 ft. add \$1; 12 in. plank and timber \$1 extra; extra for sizes above 12 in.			