

CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

The lumber market is showing a degree of strength that is very encouraging to holders of stock. Efforts have been made to depress prices, but with the exception of the upper grades, which were perhaps forced to an abnormally high point, the attempt has been unsuccessful. This may be explained in part by the fact that many of the large manufacturers sold their entire cut early in the season, and there is consequently no accumulation of stock in mill yards. The close of the season will find comparatively small stocks of pine lumber in first hands. Ottawa manufacturers seem determined to endeavor to obtain higher prices for the production of next year. Already one manufacturer has sold his output of British deals at an advance. In Toronto there is a steady consumption of lumber in building operations, and this condition exists quite generally throughout the province.

The range of hardwood prices is quite wide. A few manufacturers are disposed to offer concessions to effect sales rather than carry their stock into the winter, while others, and the larger number, are holding prices firmly, some even asking an advance upon late quotations. A Toronto dealer was recently asked \$22 for inch soft elm at the mill. There is a quite active demand for birch lumber, which has been a ready seller all season.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

There is a more active demand for spruce lumber. Manufacturers report numerous inquiries for stock for shipment to Ontario, where it is being used for many purposes in place of white pine, owing to the difference in price. Considerable shipments are also being made to the Eastern States. The demand for certain sizes is in excess of the supply. This is particularly so in the case of clapboards and heavy dimensions. It is learned that there is very little stock yet to go forward to England, the Alexander Gibson Company, for instance, having completed their last shipment. It is probable that still higher prices will be witnessed within the next three months. There is a little better feeling in the shingle trade also, although Extras still range in price from \$3.35 to \$3.50 for Boston delivery.

UNITED STATES.

The changes in our price list this week reflect very closely the tendency of the market. Certain sizes of cutting-up stock and fine common have been marked down about \$2 per thousand feet. This is the result of a limited demand for good pine lumber. Accumulation of this class of stock has been in evidence during the past two months, but nevertheless the supply is not exceptionally large, as at the beginning of this accumulation the

wholesale and mill yards were carrying very light stocks. In contradistinction to this condition is the decided scarcity of and active demand for box lumber. All that can be found is quickly bought up. In Philadelphia, for instance, where dealers are holding aloof from the better grades of pine, they are taking all the box lumber that is offered. At Buffalo and Tonawanda spruce is being used for box making on account of the shortage and high price of the box grades of pine. Throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan the trade is gradually getting down to a winter basis, but in the Eastern States activity is more marked and there is a considerable distribution of stock to retail yards and manufacturing industries.

Hardwood prices all along the line are well maintained. The scarcity of certain kinds of lumber is still quite visible. In Wisconsin it is said there is practically no hardwood lumber remaining unsold, and in Michigan elm stock is exhausted. While there is a brisk movement of thick maple, flooring is still in the same dormant state as last reported, the recent meeting of manufacturers failing to stiffen prices. Long lengths in all kinds of hardwoods are bringing much higher prices than the regular run.

Shingles are slightly stronger, while the lath market is dull and prices barely steady. Good white pine lath are quoted at \$3 to \$3.10 and mixed at \$2.70 to \$2.80 in Chicago.

GREAT BRITAIN.

If anything, there is a slight improvement in the British lumber market. There are no signs that shippers intend lowering their prices, while importers having stock for sale show no inclination to sell below current quotations. These two circumstances, it is contended, should create more confidence, but at the same time it is pointed out that any attempt to advance prices sharply would be likely to prove disastrous. Inland stocks are comparatively light and must be replenished at an early date. When buying for this purpose commences, the retail trade will no doubt assume a brighter aspect. It is remarkable that Canadian lumber of all kinds has not only held its own, but several lines have exhibited an advance. The depression in the cotton trade has restricted the consumption of spruce, but this obstacle to business is gradually being removed, and when this is accomplished there will be an active demand for box lumber. A Glasgow report states that a fair volume of business has been put through during the past ten days in pine and spruce deals and sidings, while in log timber an active trade has been done, including several sales of Quebec waney boardwood and square pine. A correspondent at Liverpool writes: "Quebec goods have come pretty well into consumption. Spruce has again done some business, but many

buyers profess to have supplied their wants for some time. I am certain, however, that consumers should "stock up," as in my opinion prices will shortly show some advance." These expressions of opinion indicate that the feeling in regard to the future is hopeful.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

There is such a scarcity of slack cooperative stock that it is almost impossible to quote prices.

Thirteen steamers and four square riggers have loaded lumber at Bathurst, N.B., this season.

Gilbert McMullin, of St. John, N.B., has commenced logging operations back of Upper Gagetown.

Avery & Pringle, of Dead Creek, Ont., have forty men employed in the woods in that vicinity cutting logs.

Tenders are invited by Jos. Hunter, of Victoria, B.C., for furnishing 30,000 hewn ties for the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railways.

Ament & Krauter, of Brussels, Ont., have started cutting logs on their timber limits in Grey county. They will take out elm, ash, pine and hemlock.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is said to have placed an order with a British Columbia manufacturer for 2,000,000 feet of lumber for the construction of new buildings at Winnipeg.

A raft of logs from Jack Fish Bay reached Rainy River, Ont., last week. It contained over 3,500,000 feet which the Backus & Brook Company recently sold to the Shelvin Clarke Lumber Company.

At Bangor, Me., spruce prices are \$18.50 to \$19 for 10 and 12 inch dimensions; \$16.50 to \$17 for 9 inch and under; \$18 to \$18.50 for wide randoms; and \$16 to \$16.50 for 9 inch and under.

Considerable square timber will be manufactured this season in the Ottawa valley. Klock Bros. are operating on the Quinze river, Edward Moore on the Dumoine river and Fraser & Company on the Jock river.

The lumber surveyed at the port of Bangor, Me., for the three months ending September 30th was 46,000,000 feet, about 3,000,000 feet more than the corresponding period of 1902 and 9,000,000 feet more than in 1901.

At Toledo, Ohio, common pine sells freely at full list; No. 4 boards are strong and in rather light supply; Norway is strong; hemlock boards have moved freely and are in good supply, although there is no abundance of 16-foot lengths.

The lumber exports from St. John, N.B., for the week ending October 17th were a cargo of 1,451,500 feet of deals to England, 483,283 feet of long lumber, 192,000 lath and 9,500 pickets to Santa Cruz, and 668,000 feet of long lumber,

2,493,000 feet of lath and 80 pieces of piling to United States ports.

Maine and New Brunswick have been experiencing an almost unprecedented drought and many million feet of logs are stranded. There have been a few heavy but brief rainfalls in the past few weeks, but not enough to help the rivers much. A letter from Edmunston, N.B., states that the logs now in the St. John river above Grand Falls cannot be driven this fall, but are to be sheered behind the islands above the falls.

Following is a comparative statement of timber, etc., measured and culled at Quebec up to October 20th as furnished by the Supervisor of Cutlers:—

	1901 Cu. Ft.	1902 Cu. Ft.	1903 Cu. Ft.
Waney White Pine.....	1,421,160	1,811,020	1,820,200
White Pine.....	53,209	38,600	48,800
Red Pine.....	89,917	71,600	37,350
Oak.....	285,801	618,680	874,320
Elm.....	942,372	561,880	417,800
Ash.....	135,164	79,920	37,200
Basswood.....	164	160
Butternut.....	944
Tamarac.....	193	40
Birch and Maple.....	307,039	164,800	195,760

TIMBER LIMIT TRANSACTIONS.

Gilroy & Hunter, of Southampton, N.S., have purchased from Pugsley Bros. a block of burnt timber, comprising 600 acres on the River Herbert road, and will establish camps there this winter.

A big lumber deal has just been concluded whereby the Rat Portage Lumber Company, of Rat Portage, Ont., acquires the property of the Harrison River, Mills Timber & Trading Company at Harrison River, about 60 miles east of Vancouver, B.C. Extensive timber limits are included in the purchase, and it is the intention of the Rat Portage Lumber Company to erect a large saw mill.

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