

## UNITED STATES.

More interest is now centred in white pine dimension than in any other class of lumber. A short time ago the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association declined to advance the price of dimension, on the ground that the conditions creating a scarcity were of an exceptional character and likely to be remedied in the near future. Nevertheless, individual firms are advancing their quotations. During the past season less dimension timber was manufactured than usual, for the reason that greater returns could be obtained by sawing the logs into inch lumber. Out of this unnatural ratio in prices grew the present shortage in dimension stock. In other respects the market is quiet and featureless. Upper grades are in good demand, while on the lower grades a concession of fifty cents per thousand is being offered by a few manufacturers who are anxious to realize. There has been very little buying of next year's stock and present appearances indicate that it will not start until after the turn of the year. A volume of business almost equalling that of the past season is generally predicted, and it is thought that prices of white pine will rule near the present basis. Hardwood prices, however, are expected to advance, as the stock at the mills is about 500,000,000 feet less than last year. Dealers are refusing orders for future delivery excepting on condition that the price then ruling is to be paid. There continues to be a strong demand for and marked scarcity of basswood. Efforts have been made to further advance the price of hemlock, but cutting of prices by some of the smaller concerns has discouraged this movement. The base price in New York city is \$16.50.

## STOCKS AND PRICES.

XXXX white pine shingles are selling in the North Tonawanda market at \$3.75.

J. L. Black & Sons, of Sackville, N. B., expect to cut 4,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

The Hanbury Manufacturing Company, of Brandon, Man., are reported to have purchased timber limits in British Columbia.

Mershon, Schuette, Parker & Company have sold to Ontario parties all the lumber they had left on the mill docks at Midland, Ont., about 2,500,000 feet.

Watson & Todd, of Montreal, are reported to have secured the 1903 cut of McLachlin Bros.' mill at Annaprior. It will aggregate fully 40,000,000 feet, including white and red pine.

About eight hundred men are engaged this winter in the woods in the Port Arthur district, taking out saw logs, piles and ties. The North Shore Timber Company are not operating this season.

In Chicago prices of hemlock by carload are steady at \$13.50 to \$14, and sales from the yards are being made at \$15 to \$15.50 for ordinary lengths. In dimensions 2x12 and upwards the price at the yards ranges from \$17 to \$18.

The contract for scantling and curbing required by the City of Toronto during 1903 has been awarded to Reid & Company, of Esplanade street, as follows: 4x4 pine, \$17.39 per thousand; 4x10 pine, \$18.30; 4x4 cedar, \$15.39.

Davidson & Thackray, of Ottawa, last week received a cablegram that the

steamer Tartar Prince, en route from New York to Cape Town, had been burned at sea. This firm had on board the vessel a stock of doors, sash and flooring for South Africa, and are heavy losers through the fire.

During the past season there were received in the Saginaw river by water 60,247,059 feet of lumber, as compared with 100,000,000 feet last year. Considerably over 100,000,000 feet of this stock came from Ontario. Two rafts of logs, aggregating 6,000,000 feet, were received from Canada, the timber being cut on deeded lands.

According to the National Coopers' Journal, prices of cooperage stock are likely to advance in the near future. Staves are firmer with a rising tendency, and it is predicted that No. 1 staves will seek a higher level permanently before very long. Hoops are high in price and not likely to go back to former figures. Heading does not look so encouraging, but manufacturers are likely to take some action to secure a larger margin of profit. The corn crop of the United States is an important factor in bringing about and extending these conditions.

Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company, under date of November 22nd, say that there have been no arrivals of either white pine or spruce within the fortnight, with the exception of 30,000 feet from the La-Have river, which was sold at \$26.15 for shipping, and \$21.65 for seconds. Both pine and spruce are wanted. Last sales of shingles have been made at \$4.89 to \$5.04 for Gaspé long cedar, \$1.82 for cedar laying, and \$1.65 to \$1.70 for spruce laying.

## THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

The representative of the CANADA LUMBERMAN to-day discussed prices with several local dealers. A careful scrutiny of the latest quotations in the market page showed but one change, that on pine 8 up s. c. sidings quoted at \$15 to \$17 per M. Latest figures are \$16 to \$19, with few, if any, selling.

Lumber manufacturers are at present engaged stocking up, and aside from the fact that standing stock is not to be had, it is difficult to get a promise on future cut. The manufacturers are endeavoring to ascertain "where they are at," and until they locate their bearings they will not hastily discuss contracts for future cuts. While some have already made contracts for next summer's cutting, they are quoting fancy prices simply to stand off would-be purchasers. Reliable reports show that a considerable quantity of the future cut was again secured by English buyers at standing prices. The demand coming from the Americans has and will continue to have a tendency to keep prices in Ottawa and district buoyant. Said one dealer, "As long as the Americans come over and purchase stock at the 'must have it at any cost' figures, the market will be unhealthy. Lumber is bringing more than it is really worth on this side, but we must rest content to be governed in this matter from across the line. Until manufacturing conditions change and it is found inexpedient to pay the ruling high price for Ottawa lumber, the local supply will command its own price."

Inquiries in other quarters went to show that high grade lumber is not to be had and ordinary stuff continues firm. Lath and shingles are scarce.

The most significant feature of the rather dull market, however, seems to be contained in the fact that English buyers have renewed orders for next summer's cut at prices as high as reigned a year back.

The arrival of winter will give an impetus to the movement of supplies to the limits and assist the jobbers in getting their stocks of pulp wood to the stations. The fact that snow held off several weeks later this year than last, seriously inconvenienced the movement of supplies to the distant limits. The lakes and rivers have all "taken" since the recent cold snap and the lumbermen are happy.

W.H. McAuliffe has again secured the cut of spruce at the St. Anthony Lumber Company's mill at Whitney. He thus controls all the cut of spruce of 1903.

The Upper Ottawa Improvement Company, at its annual meeting held last week, decided to build a fleet of five boats, two large steel tugs, two alligator tugs, and one small tug, a propeller. These boats will be placed in commission on lake Temiscamingue and the Upper Ottawa. With them the towing business hitherto carried on by Mr. Alexander Lumsden, ex-M.P.P., will be continued. This move will give the company entire control of the business on the Ottawa river. Debentures for \$120,000 will be issued to meet the cost of the extension of operations. The company elected the following officers: President, Hiram Robinson; secretary, G. B. Greene; directors, J. R. Booth, Hiram Robinson, Alex. Fraser, C. Berkeley Powell and F.P. Bronson.

OTTAWA, December 15, 1903.

## LUMBERING OPERATIONS AROUND LITTLE CURRENT.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Messrs. J. & T. Conlon closed down their mill at Little Current about the 20th November, having cut out all their stock. This firm installed a band saw as auxiliary to their gang in the large mill and have also added an electric light plant. Their capacity for next season will be in the neighborhood of 20 million feet.

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Limited, closed their mill down about the 1st of November, having cut out their stock. They had a very successful season, cutting about 22 million feet by running day and night continuously from the 1st of May throughout the summer season without any hitch. They have 300 men in their camps at Beaverstone. At present they have four camps on their limit at Beaverstone, and expect to get out about 18 million of logs. They have also just closed a deal with Messrs. Sims Bros. for about 8 million feet more of high class logs, which they expect to get early in May. This will give them ample stock for their mill for the ensuing season.

The Anderson mill is now rented to Mr. C. Stewart, late of Honora, a practical mill man, who is open for contracts to saw. Messrs. Smith & Henderson will in all probability have their stock cut by Mr. Stewart.

Messrs. Sims Bros. have about 85,000 pieces on skids now and will get in over 100,000 logs. They have two camps and about 150 men employed.

Messrs. Smith & Henderson will probably get out one million feet of white pine, Norway and hemlock with one camp and 35 men.

Messrs. J. & T. Charlton are operating on McGregor Bay with one camp and 30 men, taking out cedar ties, posts and telegraph poles. This company also have a camp and about 60 men taking out pine logs north of Killarney. They will probably get out 3 million feet there for their Collingwood mill.

The McArthur Company have about 8 million feet on their dock, and J. & T. Conlon have about 2½ million of lumber to be shipped first thing in the spring.

## 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 first instance to "Empire," CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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