

(ANNUAL CIRCULAR.)

QUEBEC, 30th November, 1866.

WE beg to forward the Trade Returns for the year, comprising the Supply, Export, and Stock of Timber at this Port, with a statement for the past five years respectively, an average for the same period and five years preceeding, together with Prices Current. The season just closed has been one of great activity for the Timber Trade, and our staple article of White Pine has maintained a higher price throughout the season than we have ever known it before. The tightness in the English money market, it was feared by some at the commencement of the year, would have had a damaging effect upon our trade; but the feeling was only temporary, and notwithstanding a great falling off in the number of vessels expected to arrive, prices have kept up without any diminution to the close of the season. During last winter our Government appointed a Commission to proceed to the West India Islands and South America, and we are not without good reason for expecting beneficial results from their visit to these countries; already the Spanish Government have, with a view of promoting trade between Canada and the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico, appointed a regular Consul to reside at Quebec, and before long, our trade in sawn lumber must increase for the United States and other forcing countries, while the square timber trade will proportionately diminish.

WHITE PINE.—The stock on hand of this article is of square 10,875,175 against 12,426,850, and of waney 762,903 against 347,187 at the same period last year, and is superior in point of quality to what has ever wintered before, the trifling amount of small and inferior wood on hand in the spring, and what arrived this year, having been worked off by spring shipments and local consumption during the season, and is all with little exception in the hands of shippers. It is important not to lose sight of the fact that large tracts of timber limits of the highest value for lumbering purposes, have, within the past two years, passed out of the hands of those engaged in the production of square wood and waney board, into the hands of those engaged in deals and sawn lumber for the American market, and we cannot shut our eyes to the change that must before long take place in our export trade from the large and increasing demand for Deals and sawn lumber. The fears entertained by some of the effect of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty by the United States Government, have been unfounded, and has proved that when an article is indispensable, the increased cost falls upon the consumer while the Trade sustains no diminution in consequence.

RED PINE.—The stock on hand of this article is 5,020,415 against 5,949,111 feet last year, two-thirds of which is inferior and small-sized wood. The market has been very dull throughout the season, and sales have been made at all times with difficulty and at a sacrifice. There is no reason to expect any change in this article until our ship-building trade improves, as Pitch Pine from the States has to a great extent displaced it in the English markets.

TAMARAC.—The stock on hand is of Square 332,139 against 376,357 feet last year, and of Flatted 291,227 against 291,359 feet at the same period. Square wood has been in fair request for good large sizes, but small has been difficult of