

the lake mills, is authority for the statement that the stock of merchantable lumber at Cutler, Blind River, John's Island, Little Current, French River, Midland, Collingwood, and including the Parry Sound Lumber Company's stock at Parry Sound, did not exceed 40,000,000 feet, and since that time about 20,000,000 feet of this stock has been sold, leaving but 20,000,000 feet of the stock then on hand still unsold. Late sawing operations would, of course, increase the quantity of unsold lumber to some extent, but would still leave the total quantity comparatively small. This estimate, it should be stated, did not include certain stocks at Victoria Harbor and Waubushene, which are almost wholly shipped by rail.

On December 31st last the stock of white pine lumber at the mills in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota was 2,850,000,000 feet, which is slightly heavier than last year but much less than in the years 1894, 1895, 1896 and 1897, when the stock was about 4,000,000,000 feet. It is estimated that there will be required for consumption this year in the United States five and one-half billion feet of white pine, with a stock at the beginning of the year of one-half that amount.

Another factor which must be considered is the annual decrease in the quantity of white pine lumber manufactured in the United States. From over 8,500,000,000 feet in 1890, the product has declined to less than 5,500,000,000 feet last year. The Chicago district, including both shores of Lake Michigan and the upper peninsula of Michigan, has decreased from a maximum of nearly 2,500,000,000 feet to a little over 1,000,000,000 feet.

Although the winter thus has been favorable for logging in Ontario, the output of white pine is not likely to be excessive. An estimate made a short time ago placed the output of the Georgian Bay and northern

districts at 500,000,000 feet, but this quantity seems likely to be reduced on account of the prevalence of smallpox in some of the lumbering camps. Orders have been issued directing that all the men in camps in certain districts shall be vaccinated. This may bring about a cessation of work for a time and a consequent falling off in the production of logs.

The stocks of lumber at Buffalo, Tonawanda, Albany and other eastern markets are not large, while retail dealers are carrying light stocks. British enquiries are coming in more freely, and altogether, there seems reason to expect that the white pine market will gain in strength as the active building season approaches, with prospects for a year characterized by a large demand and satisfactory conditions.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Reid & Co., of Toronto, are in the market for 4x4 cedar scantling.

The city of Brockville, Ont., is about to invite tenders for supply of lumber.

The steamer Briardene is loading deals at Halifax, N. S., for the United Kingdom. Tenders for the supply of lumber for the city of Kingston will be asked for immediately.

F. Carter, of Paisley, Ont., is paying \$13 per thousand for maple logs delivered at his mill.

The contract for building a breakwater at Summerside, P.E.I., to cost \$55,000, has been given to McDonald & Moffatt.

The Dominion government is calling for tenders for the construction of a large wharf at Cole's Point, N. B., which will require a large quantity of timber.

The Huntsville Lumber Company are reported to have purchased timber berth No. 1, in the township of Sinclair, containing 17 square miles, from the Robert Thomson estate.

A. F. Fawcett is under contract to supply 2,000,000 feet of spruce logs for Donald Fraser & Co., of Cabano, Que. He is logging on the Horton branch of the Tamisouata river, and expects to complete his contract about the end of March.

D. E. Sprague, of Winnipeg, expects to float 8,000,000 feet of logs down the Roseau and Red rivers this spring. Last year a considerable quantity of the cut was hung up owing to dry weather.

During last year Charles J. Willis & Company, of Sackville, N. B., shipped for Curwen & Company, of Liverpool, England, 16,998,431 feet of lumber, employing fifteen barques and five steamers.

A Montreal firm are desirous of corresponding with parties capable of contracting for the manufacture and delivery of a large quantity of round, flatted and squared timber, either hewn or sawn, in the vicinity of Parry Sound. Their name and address may be obtained at this office.

John Kilburn last week returned to Fredericton, N.B., from the scene of his lumbering operations on the Upper St. John river. He states that thus far the season has been favorable for logging. He estimates the total cut on the St. John river this winter at between 90,000,000 and 95,000,000 feet. His operations will represent about 10,000,000 feet, which will include 2,000,000 feet hung up last season. The cost of getting out logs has been much greater than for several years past.

The estimated lumber cut on the Miramichi river, in New Brunswick, this season will be fifty million feet, about one-half of the Miramichi cut of last year. The Restigouche cut of this season will be little over half last season's, which was 47,000,000 feet, cut almost wholly in Quebec and on lands of the N. B. Railway Co. Practically no cedar will be cut on the Restigouche this season, as the shingle business was so very unsatisfactory last spring that the operators did not arrange to get out any considerable quantities of cedar.

The importations of sawed lumber from Canada into the United States for the eleven months ending November 30, 1900, amounted to 501,490,000 feet, of an estimated value of \$6,003,460. This was against a total importation during the same period of 1899 of 626,316,000 feet, valued at \$6,459,290. During the eleven months of 1900

there were 440,239,000 shingles imported, against 512,348,000 during the corresponding period of 1899.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET REPORT.

During the month of January there was a fair consumption of both timber and deals at Liverpool, Eng., and with one or two exceptions prices kept fairly steady, but the stocks on hand, according to Alfred Dobell & Co., are ample for the requirements of the trade.

WANEY BOARD AND SQUARE PINE.—Stocks are within moderate compass and prices firm. For square pine, values have an upward tendency.

OAK.—There has been a fair demand without material change in quotations.

ELM.—Values are unchanged.

BIRCH LOGS.—There has been a small import, with a moderate consumption at firm figures. The stock of planks continues heavy and values are unchanged.

PINE DEALS AND BOARDS.—The arrivals have been very small, with a fair consumption at firm prices.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE DEALS.—The arrivals have been moderate, with a fair demand.

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