

prices will go lower for the next month or two. The latter argue that the local yards throughout New England bought heavily in the fall on the belief that prices were going to be higher, and that they have now a large stock of shingles on hand. Further, the mills will probably make large cuts during the spring and summer. These conditions may bring about lower prices, but if they do they will be only temporary, as the demand will pick up shortly. Prices of New Brunswick shingles have doubtless been influenced by the recent break in Washington red cedars.

#### MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

While the movement of lumber throughout the West is not heavy, dealers are figuring on large orders for the coming season, and the prospects are considered to be very bright for an active trade. Conditions generally are satisfactory, the only drawback being the policy of cutting prices which has been resorted to by representatives of Minnesota manufacturers. The new price list on white pine will shortly be put into effect.

If prospective building operations may be taken as the criterion of the lumber trade, the mills will be taxed to their utmost to supply the demand. Many new buildings are projected in Winnipeg, and in the country districts there promises to be considerable activity. It is announced that the North-West Elevator Company will build forty-one grain elevators throughout Manitoba and the Territories, at an approximate cost of \$1,700,000. These alone will call for a large quantity of lumber. In British Columbia lumber and shingles are in good demand. A large quantity of lumber is being consumed in the construction of new canneries. Prices are steady.

#### UNITED STATES.

The only important news affecting white pine comes from Minneapolis, where there is a strong disposition to advance the price of dimension. The situation in respect to that grade is especially strong, particularly in view of the advance made by the southern manufacturers, and at the Association meeting to be held on February 17th, an effort will be made to advance the price at least 50 cents per thousand. All grades of white pine are firm and there is no doubt that the available dry stock will be required before the new cut is ready for the market. Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers are purchasing quite heavily in the vicinity of Duluth, prices being about as recently quoted. In the Buffalo market there is an increased shortage of cuts and better. The supply of 12 inch box is practically exhausted, having been used largely in place of No. 3 bars, which is selling at \$23. There is every prospect of an active spring demand for white pine, with probably higher prices as the supply of dry stock becomes depleted.

Another week has brought increased strength to hardwoods of all kinds. At the annual meeting of the National Hardwood Manufacturers' Association, held in Cleveland last week, the prices of oak, ash, elm, poplar and other hardwoods were advanced quite sharply, but it seemed to be the opinion of those present that the advances were fully warranted by the conditions. With dry lumber it is not a question of price so much as where the stock can be found. Birch is a good seller and in tight supply, while basswood has been out of the market for some time.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

The timber market of Great Britain has

been strengthened by the recent attitude of Scotch buyers, who are showing a desire to purchase quite heavily at current quotations. As a result prices of white-wood have been advanced at least five shillings per standard. In the London market there continues to be a deadlock between shippers and importers, and up to the present time a very small percentage of the North of Europe production has been placed. Representatives of Canadian shippers have been more successful, although some importers refuse to pay £10 for second quality spruce c.i.f., and £9 5s for third quality 30s, which prices are being asked. They are endeavoring to force shippers to reduce these figures by at least five shillings per standard. There is, however, a just appreciation of the strong statistical position of Canadian pine and spruce, as in the last issue of the Timber Trades Journal we find the following: "The position in Canadian woods and the sales made, perhaps, may throw some light on the position as regards other ports. Red pine, has been sold at £12 10s. c.i.f., and the advance in white pine is even greater. First quality 6s and 7 to 10 in. have been sold at £22 f.o.b.; and the same percentage of advance applies to all other qualities and sizes with, possibly, the exception of second quality, of which sales have been made c.i.f. at £19 10s. for 11 inch, 12 to 16 ft., and £14 10s. for 7 to 10 in., 10 to 16 feet. Third regulars have been sold at £13 c.i.f. As the stock in Great Britain of red and white pine is probably at least 5,000 Petersburg standards short of what it was this time last year, and the stock in Canada is reported to be even lighter than the small stock wintering last season, the position would appear to be very strong." Birch timber is strong, the average price at a recent auction sale being 2sd for 14½ inch.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

In the Saginaw Valley maple logs are selling readily at \$7 to \$8.50 at shipping points.

A steamer cleared from St. John, N. B., last week for Barcelona, Spain, with 1,650,000 feet of deals.

The sale is reported at Milwaukee, Wis., of 5,000,000 feet of log run basswood, to be cut this year, at \$19 per thousand.

The Victoria Terminal Railway and Ferry Co., of Victoria, B.C., is in the market for 500,000 ties, 7 x 8 inches and 8 feet long.

The Department of Railways and Canals at Ottawa is making for tenders up to February 10th for the supply of 1,300 cedar poles for the Welland canal.

It is estimated that the cut of logs on the Miramichi river, in New Brunswick, this winter will be about 117,000,000 feet, which is slightly less than last year.

According to the estimate of E. F. Stephenson, the Rat Portage Lumber Company sold 60,000,000 feet of lumber in Manitoba and the Territories last year, and the Kerwan Lumber Company 20,000,000 feet.

Under date of January 7th, Messrs. S. P. Mussen, Son & Company say of the Barbados market: "There have been no arrivals since our last. The market is only lightly stocked with both white pine and spruce, and receipts of either will command full rates. We understand that our neighbors have tried to place another cargo of spruce on C. & F. basis, but we do not think they have done so up to the

present time. There have been no receipts of shingles, but all that were imported for the Imperial Government contracts have been sold to one of the dealers." Current prices are as follows: White pine, \$25 75 per M for first quality and \$21.25 for second quality; spruce, \$22.50 for first and \$19.50 for second quality; Long Gauge cedar shingles, \$4.89 to \$5.04; cedar lathing, \$1.82; spruce, \$1.65 to \$1.70.

#### BIRCH SQUARES AND SEATS

A large buyer of Birch chair seats and of Birch squares is open to contract with a mill for their output. Also open for Broom Handles and Dowels in large quantities. Write in first instance to "Finance," care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.

#### THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

The even tenor of the Ottawa lumber market has been broken, and the advance which was predicted in these columns before the New Year has made its appearance. This advance is unlike others of the past year, as it is confined to the plebian cuts and other lower grade lines. Moreover, the advance is not confined to standing stock, it applies as well to next summer's cut, over which there is brisk bargaining, at least that part of it that has not already found a customer before it has left the tree. There's a lesson in this latest advance, and it would be well for all interested to take note. It furnishes proof, if further be necessary, that no break may be looked for in the lumber market before next autumn at the earliest. Jobbers are searching in all directions for future cut, and long before the saws commence their song the big end of the cut will be off the market.

A glance over to-day's quotations in THE LUMBERMAN tells the tale in figures more forcibly than words could do it. Pine good shorts, 1½ in. and 1½ inch, have advanced to \$26 to \$30, the old figures being \$24 to \$28. Same stock 2 inch has advanced to \$30 and \$35 from \$27 and \$32. No. 1 dressing siding pine, former quotations on which ran from \$20 to \$24 per M, are now placed at \$24 to \$28. No. 1 dressing strips pine are selling from \$18 to \$24, former figures being \$16 to \$20. No. 1 dressing shorts pine have advanced from \$14 to \$16 to \$16 to \$20. Shingles also show an advance, clear butt 16 inch pine selling from \$2.25 to \$2.40 and XXXX pine from \$3.00 to \$3.25 per M.

Railway officials and jobbers report an easier and better movement of lumber from Ottawa and Ottawa district points. Two causes are combined in this increased activity. In the first place the lethargy of the holiday season has given away to the activity of the first month of a promising year. Equally important and

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welcome is the freer offering of rolling stock. The Canada Atlantic Railway is not as heavily taxed by the grain traffic as it was during and immediately following the season of navigation, and it accordingly has more cars for the movement of lumber. The prospects for a brisk movement for many weeks to come are bright.

Jobbers have picked up several lots of lumber which failed earlier to secure purchasers for some reason or other. Building operations in many points in the States show increased activity, and this has given an impetus to the Canadian market, and in a measure induced an advance in prices.

All eyes are turned towards the limits, and reports therefrom confirm the statement that this will be a "big year." Thanks to the precautions taken by the Provincial Government and lumber operators, there has been no outbreak of smallpox which last year closed several camps and crippled others. While there is a scarcity of teams, this handicap in transportation facilities is offset by the frost and snow, which have made good roads.

While operations in the Temiscamingue district are not as brisk as they were in recent years, there is a boom on in the neighboring Kippewa territory. Camps have been established in the latter by J. B. Grier, Montreal, Robert Anderson, R. deau Lumber Company, Edward Moore, Shepard & Moore and Hull Lumber Company, of Ottawa, and Alex. Lumsden and McLachlin Bros., of Arapric. The output of square timber and logs promises to be as large as was predicted.

The Upper Ottawa Improvement Company is making active preparations for the assumption of the towing operations on the lakes and rivers of the upper country, but the season will be well advanced before the company will be in a position to assume control. Two steel side-wheel boats and a steel tug built in Toronto are now on their way to Temiscamingue, where they will be placed in shape for the water. A couple of alligator boats will be added to the fleet. When everything is in shape, the company will extend its operation from its present terminus at Des Jonchies, near Pembroke, to the head of Lake Temiscamingue. Only the

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