MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The crop reports from Manitoba and the Territories have been more favorable during the past week and it is now reasonably certain that the yield will be up to the average. There is a disposition, nevertheless, to buy lumber only for immediate requirements. Many of the retail dealers are now carrying fairly heavy stocks, and as the farmers are not building at the present time, country trade is slow. In Winnipeg, however, the demand continues good and the tendency of prices is to stiffen. One of the Winnipeg dealers recently secured the contract for the lumber for the Eaton departmental store building, amounting in all to upwards of one and a half million feet. The British Columbia mills are not particularly busy, although there is a fair demand for fir and a slight improvement in the call for shingles. For XXX shingles, 6 x 2 inches, the present price is $2.25 for delivery throughout Manitoba and the North-West on a fifty cent freight rate. Current prices at the mills are XXXXX, $1.70; XXXX, $1.50; XXX, $1.40.

UNITED STATES.

There is a fair movement of lumber throughout the United States, but conservatism still characterizes operations. The idea is still prevalent in the minds of some dealers that prices will go lower during the winter months, and for this reason stocking up has not been much in evidence. The manufacturers, however, are of the opinion that the fall and winter trade will be of a satisfactory volume, as it is well-known that the stocks of retail dealers throughout the North-Western and Eastern States are very low. Buying for immediate requirements is expected to represent an aggregate amount of business of considerable proportions. Stocks of unsold lumber at the head of the lake are getting low, and it is possible that the cut will be shipped closer to the saws than usual. Half of the lumber to be sawn between now and the close of the season is already sold for eastern shipments. The settlement of the packers strike in Chicago has been followed by an increased demand for lumber. Building operations are active and there is a large consumption of common boards. While the demand for hardwoods is not particularly strong the condition of the market is satisfactory. Birch and oak are the leaders and the supply does not seem to be as plentiful as earlier in the season.

A scarcity of lath has developed in the Lake Superior district. Stocks seem to have faded away before it was fully realized and the demand is as strong as at any time during the summer. At the recent meeting of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association it was suggested that lath prices might be advanced, and while no change was made, the condition of supply and demand may bring about considerably higher prices in the near future.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Board of Trade returns show that during the first eight months of this year there were imported into the United Kingdom 3,719,278 loads of sawn and plain lumber, a decrease of 173,189 loads as compared with the corresponding period in 1903. The import of Canadian lumber was 762,850 loads, as compared with 871,334 loads in the previous year. It will be seen, therefore, that two-thirds of the decrease in the lumber imports is due to lighter shipments from Canada. This explains in part why Canadian stock has not declined in price as much as the Baltic lumber. The stock on hand, while ample, is not excessive, and prices are about steady. There is still some fear, however, that the bottom has not yet been reached and there is little inclination to purchase in anticipation of an advance in prices this fall. While there has been some improvement of late, it has not been sufficiently marked to entirely restore confidence, and only a few who are willing to take heavy risks are buying in a speculative way. The latest transaction reported from Liverpool for spruce was on the basis of £6 2s. 6d. per standard c.i.f.

NEW BRUNSWICK CEDAR SHINGLES.

The volume of business in this line is fairly good but prices are decidedly unsatisfactory. Extras are being freely offered, f.o.b. Boston rate, all the way from $3.00 to $3.25 per M, with the bulk of the sales probably being made at $3.05 or $3.10. Clears are comparatively stiffer and range in quotations from $2.60 to $2.80. Second clears are in most excellent demand and we would call the market stiff at $2.25 to $2.35. Clear whites are quoted at from $2.00 to $2.25, with the bulk of the sales being made at $2.10 to $2.15. Extra No. 1's are mainly sold in the Provinces.

The New Brunswick manufacturers have generally small stocks on hand of extra No. 1's. The manufacturers in the Province of Quebec are not on the average so well cleaned up. While some mills are completely sold out, certain others have fairly long stocks. On the whole, however, we would say that the average stock of extra No. 1's was about the normal and that the fall demand will probably take care of this grade all right.

Our opinion in regard to the future is that the market will eventually adjust itself to the old-time difference in price as between extras and clears. In other words, the clears will shortly bring within 25 or 30 cents per M as much as extras. The stock of clears and second clears is likely to be cleaned up this fall and the probabilities are that the demand will considerably exceed the supply on these two grades.

In spite of the low prevailing prices on extras, and the rather apathetic demand for this grade, still we expect to see the manufacturers at the close of the season with reasonably bare yards.

There is no occasion for any further decline in price on any grades, as extras are now selling at Boston as low as the B. C. red cedar shingles. It may be that after the Presidential election in the States is over the market will revive, but this may be questionable, and our opinion is that all manufacturers will consult their own interests by going into the woods this winter for a very small stock, and furthermore omitting the winter manufacture to a considerable extent, so as to give the market a chance to recover before spring.

For the average manufacturer there is no profit in shingles at present prices, and the only thing that can bring prices back to a profitable level will be a decided curtailment in the output by the manufacturers concerned.

The saw mill of A. A. Brown at Salisbury, N.B., was burned last week. There was a small insurance.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

P. G. Keyes, Secretary of the Department of Interior, Ottawa, will receive tenders up to October 12th for a license to cut timber on Berth No. 1,176, comprising Sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28, in district of Saskatchewan, N.W.T.

Morris S. M. Long, wholesale lumber dealer, Hamilton, has secured the order for the lumber to be used in the construction of a large factory and warehouse for the Paris Plough Company, Paris, Ont. The order calls for 150,000 feet of pine and hemlock.

The Sprague Lumber Company, of Winnipeg, have secured the order to supply 1,500,000 feet of British Columbia fir lumber for the Eaton departmental store building now in course of construction in Winnipeg. There will be 12,000 pieces 3 x 14 and 18.

A dispatch from Fredericton, N.B., dated September 15th, says: "The corporation drive left Perth yesterday, and as the water above the city has risen considerably in consequence of the heavy rain, the logs are expected down very soon. Prominent lumbermen express the opinion that they will all be down in the course of a few days."

Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company, of Barbadoes, write as follows under date of August 27th: "The fortnight has been quite barren of arrivals and the lumber market shows some signs of improvement. We have sold a cargo of white pine to arrive at $26 for merchantable and $20 for second quality, and we value next arrivals of this at about same prices. Spruce is in light stock, and although this is not the season when there is much enquiry for this class of lumber, yet a small cargo would probably do well. There has not been any arrival of shingles since our last. Long Cedar and Dimension shingles are wanted. Cedar Laying are in fair supply, but would probably realize in the neighborhood of $2 to $2.10 according to quality."