

**THE OTTAWA VALLEY.**

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

After an unusually busy and prosperous season, the mills in the immediate vicinity of Ottawa have closed down, and operations are now transferred to the limits. The prospects for 1900 are bright, as Canadian lumber is in great demand at advanced prices in both the English and American markets. Lath, for instance, has advanced from 62½ cents to \$2.50 per thousand, while mill owners and jobbers predict that this article will sell much higher before next season's cutting operations commence. There is a famine in lath in the American market, and the Canadian cut fetches its own price. Ottawa dealers for the first time are shipping lath to remote points in Pennsylvania and the New England States. The supply of lath in the Ottawa district will, it is admitted, fall short of the American demand. Shingles are also a ruling factor in the lumber trade.

The marked activity in American manufacturing centres has created a steady and increased demand for the cheaper grades of Canadian lumber, but as prices did not advance till well on in the season, the Ottawa mill owners are not as far ahead as the increase in business would lead one to expect. Prices in the English markets have advanced during the year from 5 to 25 per cent. The business done has also shown a marked increase. Thus, Watson & Todd, the Liverpool importers of Canadian lumber, have bought 56,000,000 feet of Canadian deals this year, whereas last season only 44,000,000 feet were secured. This firm purchased heavily from the W. C. Edwards Co., the Hull Lumber Co., and Branson & Weston. The firm of Robert Cox & Co. has, however, not bought so extensively. The trade done by the Export Lumber Co. and other Ottawa companies with South American ports has also been better than it was last year. So heavy have the purchases for the British and American markets been, that scarcely any lumber can be secured in the Ottawa mill yards for the local trade, and builders are pressed hard for the necessary material.

Wages of lumbermen are higher, but the present influx of mill hands, consequent upon the closing of the mills, will have a tendency to lower them. More men have been sent into the Georgian Bay district than last year, but the number is not increased to any extent in other districts. The open fall has favored the lumbermen, and should the winter be a good one for lumbering operations, the supply of logs next season will be large. Greater areas of limits are being worked this year to fill the increased mill contracts.

W. C. Edwards & Co. have just shipped to the Paris Exposition the show cases for the Canadian exhibits. There are in all 2,000 feet of cases, making five carloads. They are built of British Columbia cedar, Douglas fir and larch, and white pine from Eastern Canada. The woods have been polished and grained, and in themselves will be an appropriate advertisement for Canada.

D'Amour & Charlebois, lumber dealers, of Hull, intend to enlarge their planing mill shortly. The addition will be a two-story one, 100 feet by 30 feet. In it will be placed new rip and band saws, and machinery for box manufacturing. Part will also be used for storage purposes. This year the firm have turned out 150,000 boxes of different sizes for the Canadian market, and estimates have been furnished on another large contract.

The present war in South Africa has interfered considerably with the Canadian lumber trade. The firm of Davidson & Thackray, of this city, which regularly sent shipments of doors, sashes, etc., to Cape Town, Newcastle, Johannesburg and Petermaritzburg, has been compelled to desist owing to the war and the absence of ocean carrying facilities, and can now only ship to Cape Town. All building operations are, of course, at a standstill in the Transvaal, but it is expected that when the war is over, and Britain's supremacy proven, a new and profitable market will be established in South Africa for Canadian lumber, both mill and manufactured. The close of the present desultory struggle in the Philippines will also indirectly benefit the Canadian lumber trade, through the Americans who will develop their new found possessions.

Ald. Jas. Davidson, a member of the firm of Davidson & Thackray, lumber dealers, will make a business trip to England early in the year.

The high prices reigning in the lumber market will, it is expected, encourage the owners of small stationary and portable mills to take a hand in the business again. In the Ottawa valley these operators are hiring men for their limits, and many mills which have been idle for years will start up again.

Last week after closing the Hull mills, the Hull Lumber Co. sent a gang of mill hands with teams to join the choppers on the limits on the Kippewa river above Mattawa. The

Hull mills were closed for six weeks during the season owing to the non-arrival of logs. J. R. Booth's and Gilmour & Hughson's mills ran steadily all season, and shipped more lumber than ever. All the cut now in the yards is already sold, while some mill owners have sold their next year's cut at present prices.

During the past year the Ottawa Lumber Co. has handled over 5,000,000 feet of deals alone. It is expected that between 8,000,000 and 10,000,000 feet will be handled during the coming season. This firm is taking out large quantities of ash, elm, birch and other hardwoods, with which its limits on the Rouge river are well stocked. Access was only secured to these limits a couple of years ago by the extension of a colonization railroad.

The E. B. Eddy Co., of Hull, has a sufficient supply of pulpwood on hand to keep its paper mills running all winter, but nevertheless a shortage in the general supply of pulpwood is looked for, as the logs could not all be floated down to the mills.

A gentleman interested in lumber matters, who recently visited the Hawkesbury Lumber Co.'s limits on the Dumoine river, states that the timber there is as plentiful and of as good a quality as it was 38 years ago, despite the fact that cutting operations have been steadily carried on since. This he attributes to the rapid growth of the pine and the systematic cutting done.

In Davidson & Thackray's planing mill at Ottawa over 8,000,000 feet of lumber was used during the season. This firm has also a saw mill at Quyon, Que., and on its limits on the Quyon and Coulonge rivers 100 men are now working. Last summer a large addition, 66 by 80 feet, was added to the Ottawa factory for storage purposes. The new building is a three storey one, solid brick, and built throughout with hardwood floors.

During the entire winter season a supply of logs will be brought to J. R. Booth's mills at Ottawa, by train over the Canada Atlantic Railway from the Parry Sound and adjacent districts. This will insure a supply of logs for the opening cut at the mill next spring.

OTTAWA, December 11th.

**THE GASGOW MARKET.**

The Glasgow market is thus reviewed by Messrs. Wright, Graham & Co. in their monthly timber market report of Nov. 30th.

**WANEY BOARDWOOD.**—Large prime wood is in request, and stock on hand is being held for advanced prices. Price, 2s 5d to 2s 10d for large average; smaller average and second class wood at 1s 10d to 2s 4d per cubic foot.

**SQUARE PINE.**—Prime large wood is enquired for. Price, 2s 5d to 2s 7d; smaller average and poorer quality at 1s 6d to 2s 1d per cubic foot.

**RED PINE.**—There is a good demand. Large average is quoted at 1s 10d to 2s; smaller average and poorer quality at 1s 6d to 1s 8d per cubic foot.

**OAK LOGS.**—First class wood of large size, suitable for railway purposes, has been in good demand. Price, 2s 10d to 3s 3d; smaller average and second quality at 2s to 2s 3d per cubic foot.

**ELM LOGS** are in special request, especially large prime wood. Price, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; smaller average and second class at 2s to 2s 2d per cubic foot.

**ASH LOGS.**—There is a good demand for same. Prime parcels of 15 to 16 inch average are quoted at 1s 11d to 2s 1d; smaller average at 1s 5d to 1s 10d per cubic foot.

**BIRCH LOGS.**—The demand continues, and several good sales are reported lately at advanced prices; 16 inch average and up at 1s 11d to 2s 1d; 14 to 15 inch average at 1s 7d to 1s 9d per cubic foot.

**ROCK MAPLE LOGS.**—Prime fresh wood is in demand. Price, 1s 10d to 2s 2d per cubic foot, according to size.

**HICKORY LOGS.**—Prime tough quality is in demand, and will realize from 2s 2d to 2s 4d. Poorer quality at 1s 5d to 1s 10d per cubic foot.

**QUEBEC WHITE PINE DEALS.**—The de-

mand has been good, and a fair amount of business has been done at advanced prices. 1st quality, broad, £26 2s 6d to £27 3s 1d per St. Petersburg standard; 11 in., £23 7s 6d to £24 15s; 7 in. to 10 in. and ends, £17 17s 6d to £20 12s 6d. 2nd quality, broad, £18 18s 1d to £20 12s 6d; 11 in., £16 10s to £17 10s 7d; 7 in. to 10 in., £13 8s 1d to £15 2s 6d. 3rd quality, broad, £11 6s 10d to £12 7s 6d; 11 in., £10 6s 3d to £11; narrows, £7 18s 1d to £8 11s 10d. 4th quality, broad, £8 18s 9d to £9 12s 6d; 11 in., £7 11s 3d to £8 5s; narrows, £6 10s 7d to £7 4s 4d.

**RED PINE DEALS.**—The demand is brisk, and shipments are readily sold on arrival. Prices are about, 9 and 11 in. by 3 in., £11 13s 9d to £13 1s 3d per St. Petersburg standard; narrows, £9 12s 6d to £10 6s 3d.

**QUEBEC WHITE PINE BOARDS.**—The stock is very low, and large parcels have been sold at advanced prices. First quality, 2 in. thick, averaging 12 in. to 15 in. wide, at £18 18s 1d to £20 12s 6d per St. Petersburg standard; 1½ in., 12 in. to 15 in., £18 11s 3d to £20 5s 7d; 1¼ in., 11 in. to 13 in., £17 3s 9d to £18 11s 3d; 1 in., 10 in. to 12 in., £16 3s 1d to £17 10s 7d; ½ in. and 2 in. strips, 4 in. to 7 in., £15 16s 3d to £16 16s 10d. Second quality 2 in., 12 in. to 14 in., £14 8s 9d to £15 9s 4d; 1½ in. and 1¼ in., 12 in. to 14 in., £13 8s 1d to £14 15s 7d; 1 in., 10 in. to 12 in., £12 7s 6d to £13 15s 3d. Third quality 2 in., 11 in. to 15 in., £9 12s 6d to £11 6s 10d; 1, 1½ and 1¼ in., 10 in. to 14 in., £8 5s to £10 6s 3d.

**STRIP DEALS.**—The consumption has been good; prices continue firm, with an upward tendency. Prices quoted—£6 10s 7d to £7 18s 1d for third quality; £6 3s 9d to £7 4s 4d for fourth quality, per St. Pet. std.

**N. B. PINE DEALS.**—The demand has been good, and prices have advanced.

**N. B. SPRUCE DEALS** (2nd quality average).—Advanced prices have been paid and parcels of long lengths are wanted. Prices quoted—£6 17s 6d to £9 5s per St. Petersburg std.

**N. B. BIRCH LOGS.**—The market is in a very healthy condition, and several parcels have been sold recently at enhanced prices, ranging from 1s 6d to 1s 10d per cubic foot.

**N. B. BIRCH PLANKS.**—The import has been small. The demand keeps good and prices have advanced. Price—£7 4s 4d to £8

18s 9d per St. Petersburg standard, according to specification.

**TIMBER LIMIT TRANSACTION.**

Fraser & Co., of Ottawa, have disposed of their timber limits lying between the Coulonge and Crow rivers, containing about 250 square miles, to the Gillies Bros. Co., of Braeside, Ont. These limits are mostly covered with a dense growth of large pine, and are exceptionally well watered by numerous "drivable" creeks flowing from a central part to the main streams, making the haul very short. The Gillies Bros. Co. take over the logging operations which were in progress at time of sale. The price has not been made known. Fraser & Co. purchased these limits from Alexander Fraser in 1896. They are now putting in supplies on some limits they own between the Coulonge and Black rivers, and expect to operate next season.

**LUMBER FREIGHT RATES.**

CANADA ATLANTIC RAILWAY.

Lumber freight rates on the Canada Atlantic Railway, are as follows: Ottawa to Oswego, \$1.90 per M ft.; Ottawa to Syracuse, \$2.20 per M ft. (3,000 lbs. and under per M ft.); Ottawa, Rockland and Hawkesbury to Montreal, 5 cents per 100 lbs.; Quebec, 10 cents per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to Montreal, 7 cents per 100 lbs.; Quebec, 12 cts.; Pembroke to Montreal, 8 cents per 100 lbs.; Quebec, 13 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to New York, 15 cents per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to New York, 17 cents per 100 lbs.; Pembroke to New York, 18 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Buffalo, 12 cts. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Port Huron and Detroit, 14 cts. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa, Rockland and Hawkesbury to Boston and common points, local 15c., exports 11c. per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to Boston and common points, local 17 cents, export 15 cts. per 100 lbs.; Parry Sound to Boston and Portland and common points, local 2½ cts., export 20 cts. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa, Rockland and Hawkesbury to Portland, 15 cts.; Arnprior to Portland, 17 cts.; Ottawa to Burlington, 6c. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Albany, 10 cts. per 100 lbs.; Arnprior to Albany, 12 cts. per 100 lbs.; Parry Sound to Albany 17 cts. per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Scranton and Wilkesbarre, Pa., also Binghamton, N.Y., 13 cents per 100 lbs.; from Arnprior 15 cents, from Parry Sound 20 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to St. John, N.B., and common points, 20 cents per 100 lbs.; Ottawa to Halifax, N.S., and common points, 21 cents per 100 lbs. Minimum carload weight for shipment of lumber, lath, shingles, etc., is 30,000 lbs., and rates quoted above are in cents per 100 lbs., except when quoted per M ft.; minimum carloads, 10 M ft., lumber not exceeding 3,000 lbs. per M ft., lath 50,000 pieces, not exceeding 600 lbs. per M pct. Ottawa rates apply on shipments from Rockland and Hawkesbury.

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