

stocks for spring delivery are reported. There is no question as to the firmness of hardwoods. The knowledge of a light input of logs this winter has encouraged manufacturers to adhere closely to the prices which they have been asking, and unless the buyer is prepared to pay them a sale seldom results.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The spruce situation is as strong as at last writing, although the demand is quieter. Frames for prompt delivery are selling above the last price, and as yards are carrying small stocks, it is probable that the dull season will be passed without any fall in prices. New York reports a scarcity of spruce and local mill men are receiving many inquiries for stock for shipment to that market. Contracting for the British market has not yet commenced to any extent, as shippers are not disposed to pay the higher prices asked in many instances. The season has been favorable for logging operations and good progress has been made, especially on the north shore of New Brunswick.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Board of Trade returns show that during the first eleven months of this year the import of sawn lumber into the United Kingdom was about 4,000,000 feet less than the corresponding period in 1902. This is a very slight decrease, and in view of the curtailed consumption the stock will likely be found to be more than ample to supply the winter and early spring demand. House building is quiet even for this season of the year. Representatives of Quebec shippers have, it is understood, closed a few small contracts, but business is by no means active. The increased price paid for the Ottawa deal production is the subject of general comment and the opinion seems to be that the better grades of pine deals in the hands of dealers must be advanced to a corresponding extent. On this subject the Liverpool correspondent of the Timber Trades Journal says: "The pine season is over, and it finds us with light stocks, upon which we must congratulate the happy holders. Buyers up the country who have not yet realized what we have already pointed out in these columns will find themselves left. They have not realized the fact that the Canadian pine production does not depend upon this country alone, as many of them seem to believe. They have never realized the enormous wants, not of the Dominion alone, which are ever growing, but the demand from the United States, who are huge buyers of pine deals, etc. The prices of the present day may appear unduly high to the old-fashioned buyer, but he has not awakened to the changed condition, and the sooner he is aroused the better it will be for him."

UNITED STATES.

According to the Construction News permits were taken out in November in twenty-one of the leading cities of the United States for 6,282 buildings, aggregating \$21,619,447 in value, against 5,496 buildings costing \$19,689,788 for the corresponding months of 1902. This represents a gain of 25 per cent, and is a very satisfactory showing. Based on this report and on an improvement in general business, the lumbermen are taking a more rosy view of the coming year than they were one month ago. The Wisconsin Valley Lumbermen's Association met on December 10th and decided to reaffirm the white pine list of September 14 except in so far as it affects lath. There was a strong sentiment in favor of advancing certain items on the list and it was shown that stocks in the hands of manufacturers are short as compared with 1902. There has been such a demand for box lumber that the sawing of dimension has been neglected and consequently the supply is very tight. A Chicago house is reported to have lately sold several lots of box lumber at prices 15 to 20 cents a thousand higher than those which had previously prevailed. The supply of norway pine is also limited, but the demand of late has fallen off. At Tonawanda and Buffalo shaly clear is said to be short and quoted from \$35.00 to \$50.00, according to quality and width. Hardwood prices are being well maintained. Basswood is more plentiful and the Chicago price ranges from \$33.00 to \$34.00 for first and second, \$23.00 to \$24.00 for common, and \$15.00 to \$15.50 for culls. Log run inch soft elm brings \$21.00 to \$22.00 and common and better about \$26.00 in carload lots.

Lath prices are weak. The Wisconsin manufacturers by a unanimous vote decided to list lath as follows: No. 1 white pine, \$3.00; No. 1 mixed, \$2.50; No. 2, \$2.00. No. 1 is relatively firmer than the other grades and a few orders are reported at \$3.10 on a Chicago basis.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The Goderich Organ Company, of Goderich, Ont., are in the market for 1,000,000 feet of hardwood lumber.

It is stated that the logs cut this winter in the vicinity of Bonny River, N.B., will be about 8,000,000 feet.

The barque Enterprise has sailed from Bear River, N.S., for Buenos Ayres, with lumber, shipped by Clarke Bros.

The St. Martins Railway, of St. Martins, N.B., has given out a contract for 15,000 ties to be taken out this winter.

The oak, elm and basawood timber on Kettle Point, Ont., amounting to about 500,000 feet, was sold by public auction last week to the Sutherland-Innes Company, of Chatham, for \$1,500.

It is reported that the Canadian Pacific Railway have placed a contract with a Washington mill for 2,500,000 feet of lumber.

The Dymont, Butterfield Company, of Barrie, Ont., have purchased a small timber limit and intend operating this winter between Powassan and Trout Creek.

J. Carew, of Lindsay, Ont., who has acquired the Gilmour Company's old limits in Harvey and Cavendish townships, is taking a large stock of logs this winter.

In Michigan millmen are paying farmers the following prices for small lots of logs: Soft elm, \$18 a thousand; basswood, \$18; rock elm and ash, \$12; maple and beech, \$10; oak, \$10 to \$25.

Merrill & King, of Duluth, Minn., sold last week several lots of No. 3 and better pine, in all about 8,000,000 feet. Prices are said to have been about the same as have ruled during the fall months.

A. D. Crobie & Company, of Halifax, N.S., were the purchasers of the cargo of spruce lumber discharged from the barque A. Bertina which put into Halifax dunnaged on a voyage from Anapolis to a South American port.

It is learned that the importations of lumber into Manitoba during the year ended July 1, 1903, were 44,000,000 feet. There were received from British Columbia 92,000,000 feet and from Eastern Ontario 100,000,000 feet.

Navigation statistics for the seas just closed show that the lumber passing through the Lachine canal reached an aggregate of 172,485,018 feet, as compared with 146,896,237 feet in 1902, an increase of 27,588,781 feet.

The cooperage trade has settled down to a more steady basis. First-class stave staves are scarce. Flour barrels are still at top prices, 40 and 42 cents for 6 and 8 hooped. Heading is very strong but hoops are easy. In tight work stock is so scarce that tierces are quoted at \$1.75, with pork barrels \$.50.

Current prices of Canadian lumber are quoted by Farnworth & Jardine, London, Eng., as follows:

Table with columns for lumber types (e.g., Quebec White Pine, Spruce, Fir, etc.) and prices per unit. Includes sub-sections for 'Quebec White Pine Timbers' and 'Quebec Pine Deals'.

THE NEW BRITISH COLUMBIA LAWS

The radical changes in the British Columbia timber laws are still the topic of much discussion. The new act meets with favor in some quarters, while others it is characterized as unfair. A deputation of men interested in logging limits claim that the act does not suit them. They called upon the government with a view of having the license fee reduced, but this opinion is said to be held only by those who are not operating, but who desire to speculate in the limits. The act is aimed at the American mill men pure and simple. The government official who formulated the act for the government stated to the press that his object was to make the American pay for the privilege of cutting logs in Canada and taking them out of the country. A deputation from the Shingle and Lumber Manufacturers' Association called on the Government and after going over the act with the members of the cabinet, it is said, expressed themselves as satisfied with the objects of the bill, which was to prevent speculation and compel those who leased or secured timber under license to operate.

MIRAMICHI LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

The shipments of spruce deals, etc., from Miramichi, N.B., for the season of 1903 were as follows:—F. E. Neale, per Frank Harrison & Co., 36 million ft.; J. B. Snowball Co., Limited, 23 million ft.; D. & J. Ritchie & Co., 10 million ft.; E. Hutchison, 9 million ft.; A. F. Bentley, 8 million ft.; W. Malcolm McKay, 6 million ft.; Geo. Burchill & Sons, 4 1/2 million ft.; Danery & McDonald, 3 1/2 million ft.

BROOM HANDLES.

If an enterprising man with supplies of cheap Spruce, Basswood or Poplar care to put in several machines to work broom handles we can take his output. Write in first instance to Empire, care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.

The steamer Astracada is loading lumber at St. John, N.B., for Melbourne, Australia. Felix Lorander, saw mill, St. Boniface de St. wigan, Que., is reported to have assigned.

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FOR SALE.

A number of very valuable pine and other timber limits on the north shore of Lake Huron and elsewhere for sale. Also limits bought and sold on commission and estimates given. For particulars, apply to P. McDERMOTT, Box 177, South River, Ont.

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