Market Reports.

TORONTO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FEB. 25.—The clogs have been taken off the wheels of trade to some extent, although it will require fine spring weather to open up the building trade to any great extent. Yet there is not much cause for complaint, taking into consideration the severe frosts and heavy snows of the present winter, and the fact that the few fine days we have had lately has had the effect of starting quite a number of new buildings in various parts of the city, tends to the belief that with the opening of spring considerably more than the usual amount of building will be gone on with, and choice building lots, except on the outskirts of the city, will soon be a thing of the past.

Trade with western Ontario is also opening up, and signs are apparent that more than the usual amount of trade will be done with western points, this will be partly due to the fact that small stocks are now being carried by western dealers and while the severe weather lasted they did not feel like purchasing, and still their stocks kept dwindling down during the winter months until there is nothing left on hand to dispose of, so that a replenishment of their stocks has now become imperative in view of the approaching spring trade. Wholesale dealers are now speculating upon the opening up of the season's trade with the American markets. Two months ago it was fondly hoped that the duties on lumber would be taken off, but that delusion is over, and if stocks at the mills are even only moderately large the coarser grades must to a considerable extent be a drug on this market. The percentage of good lumber in the stocks got out is lessening, year after year, and the total quantity manufactured is increasing, so that it is becoming a serious question what shall be done with the surplus of the coarser grades. The Americans are open to purchase our good lumber, but can do without our common during the lives of the present generation, so that in my humble opinion the only answer to the question What shall we do with our coarse lumber? is, cut less.

On making a tour by the various yards throughout our city I find that stocks are light in most of them, more especially is this the case in bill stuff ranging from 20 to 30 feet long, some of the commonly used sizes would not be found of the length named in any of the yards in the city. Millmen do not pay that attention to the wants of the trade in getting in a good stock of logs from 28 to 30 feet, which their own interests, and that of the trade, generally warrants them in doing.

Mill cull boards and scantling	$10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	14 00
" stocks	14 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft	14 00
" " " 18 ft	15 00
" " " 20 ft	15 50
" " " 22 ft	16 50
" " " 24 ft	17 50
" " " 26 ft	18 00
" " " 28 ft	19 00
" " " 30 ft	21 00
" " " 32 ft	22 00
" " " 34 ft	24 00@25 00
" " " 36 ft	27 00
" " " 38 ft	28 00
" " " 40 to 44 ft	32 00
Cutting up planks to dry	24 00
" boards "	18 00
Sound dressing stocks	18 00
Picks Am. inspection	28 00@30 50
Three uppers, Am inspection	35 00@45 00
B. M.	
1¼-inch flooring, dressed	32 00
1½ " rough	16 00
1¼ " " dressed	28 00
1½ " " undressed	15 00@16 00
1 " " dressed	22 00
1 " " undressed	16 00
⅝ Beaded Sheeting, dressed	22 50
Clapboarding, dressed	14 00
XXX sawn shingles, ⅌ M	3 00
Sawn Lath	2 00

MONTREAL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FEB. 23.—Business here has been very dull during the past week or two, although we hear of several pretty large contracts having been given out, viz., for a church, convent and two schools. It is likely that building will be pretty brisk this summer, especially of houses of the smaller kind as rents have advanced very considerably. We continue to hear of purchases of lumber in Ottawa to some extent at last year's prices. The report is still current that the cut of lumber this year will be considerably smaller than last, but in the meantime this cannot be confirmed. Prices remain unchanged as under:

Pine, 1st quality, ⅌ M	$35 00@40 00
Pine, 2nd " ⅌ M	22 00@24 00
Pine, shipping culls, ⅌ M	14 00@16 00
Pine, 4th quality deals, ⅌ M	11 00@12 00
Pine, mill culls, ⅌ M	10 00@12 00
Spruce, ⅌ M	10 00@13 00
Hemlock, ⅌ M	9 00@10 00
Ash, run of log culls out, ⅌ M	20 00@25 00
Bass, " " ⅌ M	17 00@20 00
Oak, ⅌ M	40 00@50 00
Walnut ⅌ M	60 00 100 00
Cherry, ⅌ M	60 00@80 00
Butternut, ⅌ M	35 00@40 00
Birch, ⅌ M	20 00@25 00
Hard Maple, ⅌ M	25 00@30 00
Lath, ⅌ M	2 50@ 3 00
Shingles, 1st, ⅌ M	3 00@ 0 00
Shingles, 2nd, ⅌ M	2 50@ 0 00

CORDWOOD.

There has been a fair quantity of wood prepared in the country districts, but the roads have been too heavy to draw it out. The demand has been very slack for the past two weeks, and any transactions have been on a very limited scale. Prices, however, are very firm as follows. We quote at the wharves ex cartage.

Long Maple	$7 00
Long Birch	7 00
Long Beech	6 50
Tamarack	5 50

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

Latest mail advices state that the weather has been unusually open, but the timber trade keeps very quiet although the consumption may be considered satisfactory. Stocks contrast favorably with last year, but only very low offers will tempt merchants to increase their stocks. Spruce deals St. John, N. B., sold by private bargain at an average of £6 16s. 3d. per standard and at auction at £6 17s. 6d. which shows a steady decline since 1882 as the following comparative figures will show. St. John, N. B., spruce—1882, £7 10s. to £7 15s.; 1883, £7 5s.; 1884, £6 15s. to £6 17s. 6d.

WINNIPEG.

The Winnipeg *Commercial* of Feb. 12, says: The demand is very light and hardly worth speaking about. Quotations are:

Pine lumber, 1st, common boards, dressed	$26 50
do, 2nd, dressed	25 50
do, 1st dressed rough	26 50
do, 2nd do.	25 50
Sheating, rough	25 00
Timber 16 feet and under	24 00
do. over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet.	1 00
Dimension and joists 16 feet and under	24 50
do. do, over 16 feet for each	1 00
Fencing	25 00
2 and 3 in. battens	30 00
A. stock boards, all widths	50 00
B. do. do.	45 00
C. do. do.	40 00
D. do. do.	25 00
1st clear, 1, 1¼, 1½, and 2 inch	60 00
2nd do. do. do.	56 00
Window and door casings	50 00
Base boards, dressed	50 00
1st pine flooring, siding and ceiling	40 00
2nd do. do. do.	35 00
3rd do. do. do.	30 00
½ inch split siding, dressed	30 00
Spruce lumber—timber 16 feet and under	22 00
do. over 16 feet for each additional 2 feet	1.00
Dimension and joists, 16 feet and under	23 00
do do. over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet	1 00
Boards	22 00
1st flooring, siding and ceiling	23 00
XX shingles	5 25
Star A shingles	5 25
X shingles	5 00
A. do.	4 50
Lath	4 50

QUEBEC.

Notwithstanding the present winter has been generally favorable for the manufacture of timber and saw logs, the supply for next season of almost all sorts of timber and lumber will be very much less than last year.* This is accounted for by the fact that prices have declined to a point that leaves the limit holders and millmen little or no margin of profit, and in many cases a serious loss,—hence they prefer leaving the timber standing rather than face the markets with so unsatisfactory an outlook.

There has been six weeks of excellent sleighing in Ohio and Michigan, and all the timber manufactured this winter will be got out, but the recent floods in Ohio have of course put a stop to the supply of oak, which will not exceed 700,000 feet, or considerably less than one-half of what was made last year.

Elm is exceedingly difficult to procure; there is now little rock elm remaining in Canada large enough for square timber. Owing to the enhanced value of this wood, the supply will be somewhat larger than last year, including about 150,000 feet from Michigan. The supply will be much under the average of the last five years,—most of this will be late in arriving in port,—and as the stock wintering is extremely small, there will no doubt be an active demand for it early in the season.

RED PINE.—The supply this year will not be over 150,000 feet. Pitch pine seems to have run this description of wood out of consumption in the English markets.

WHITE PINE.—The supply will be about two-thirds of what it was last year in square and waney, but as a large portion of it is made at a long distance from navigable waters the chances are that the whole of it will not reach Quebec next season.

SAW LOGS.—There is an enormous decrease in the estimated supply of pine logs. On the Ottawa, it is said, there will be over 1,500,000 logs less than last year, which, at an average of 140 sper. feet to the log, will be equal to 210 million feet of lumber. On the St. Maurice we learn the supply will not exceed one-third of what it was last year. This leads us to believe that pine deals have touched bottom, and when we consider that the Montmorenci mills will in all probability be closed up next season, we should not be surprised to soon find an upward movement in prices. If the United States duty on lumber is repealed, there will no doubt be a smart advance, particularly in the lower grades.

Spruce deals are now selling at a price that many millmen say does not cover cost of manufacture, allowing nothing for the wood. We understand the supply will be considerably less than last winter.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

MANITOBA.

"The lumbering interests on the Lake of the Woods" says the Manitoba *Free Press*, "are not as active this winter as in previous years, but from the quantity of logs left over from last season, there is every prospect of a fairly active summer at Rat Portage. Bulmer & Co. are at work in the woods, getting out 2,500,000 feet of logs which, with 2,000,000 previously on hand will keep their mill pretty busy. The Rainy Lake Company may not have their mill rebuilt in time for this season's operations. The Winnipeg Lumber Company and Camp & Walker of Minneapolis have a large number of logs on the American side of the Rainy Lake. The Keewatin Lumber Company have not cut any this winter, satisfied that the five or six million feet of logs they have on hand will be sufficient to meet the demand for lumber this year. On the whole, however, matters look very satisfactory.

ALBANY.

Quotations at the yards are as follows:—

Pine, clear, ⅌ M	$55 00@60 00
Pine, fourths	50 00@55 00
Pine, selects	45 00@50 00
Pine, good box	22 00@33 00
Pine, 10-in. plank, each	00 42@00 46
Pine, 10-in. plank, culls, each	00 23@00 25
Pine boards, 10-in	00 28@00 32
Pine, 10-in. boards, culls	00 18@00 21
Pine, 10-in. boards, 16 ft., ⅌ M	28 00@32 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 16 ft	30 00@34 00
Pine, 12-in. boards, 13 ft	27 00@29 00
Pine, 1¼ in. siding, select	45 00@47 00
Pine, 1¼-in. siding, common	18 00@20 00
Pine, 1-in. siding, select	43 00@45 00
Pine, inch siding, common	15 00@18 00
Spruce, boards, each	00 00@00 16
Spruce, plank, 1¼-in., each	00 00@00 20
Spruce, plank, 2-in., each	00 00@00 30
Spruce, wall strips, each	00 12@00 12
Hemlock, boards, each	00 00@00 14
Hemlock, joist, 4x6, each	00 00@00 33
Hemlock, joist, 2½x4, each	00 00@00 14
Hemlock, wall strips, 2x4, each	00 00@00 11
Ash, good, ⅌ M	40 00@43 00
Ash, second quality, ⅌ M	25 00@30 00
Cherry, good, ⅌ M	60 00@85 00
Cherry, common, ⅌ M	25 00@35 00
Oak, good, ⅌ M	40 00@43 00
Oak, second quality, ⅌ M	20 00@25 00
Basswood, ⅌ M	25 00@30 00
Hickory, ⅌ M	40 00@40 00
Maple, Canada, ⅌ M	26 00@30 00
Maple, American, per M	26 00@28 00
Chestnut, ⅌ M	38 00@40 00
Shingles, shaved, pine, ⅌ M	0 00@ 6 50
" 2nd quality	0 00@ 5 00
" extra, sawed, pine	0 00@ 4 90
" clear, "	0 00@ 3 30
" cedar, mixed	0 00@ 3 50
" cedar, XXX	0 00@ 4 00
" hemlock	0 00@ 2 50
Lath, hemlock, ⅌ M	0 00@ 2 75
Lath, spruce, "	0 00@ 3 00

CHICAGO.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* of Feb. 27, says:—As spring approaches holders of lumber begin to manifest some anxiety about the effect of the opening season on prices. This anxiety is clearly manifest from Boston to St. Paul. A heavy stock, especially of coarse lumber, was carried into the winter after a season of hard pushing, to make profitable sales. It was felt that the old tub of trade had been grinding on the bottom all the season, and it was a source of relief when the grip of winter froze the rivers, lakes and canals, and congealed trade at the same time. But the grip held a little too long, the winter has been dull in most markets and at the East does not start yet. Contrary to general expectation, also, the log crop is going to be large. There is no ground to hope for a meagre supply of lumber. The signs are plain for another season of heavy mill output. As a consequence of apparent conditions the injury is everywhere met, "What do you think about prices the coming spring; will they remain steadfast about the present range, or will they go lower?" It is to be noticed that there is never a suggestion of possibly higher prices. This is significant. It indicates a knowledge of large stocks on hand, of heavy expected output, and offerings to sell beyond the capacity of the country to absorb.

It is barely possible that the holders of lumber are, at the present, underestimating the coming demand for their stock. It may be strong enough to maintain values at about their present range, though an advance can hardly be expected, no matter how good the demand may be, for it is likely that the capacity of the mills and the disposition of their owners is such as to prevent any scarcity of lumber. The absence of a speculative tendency in all lines of trade, and weakness of prices shared by all other commodities, must, as long as such conditions continue, have an influence on lumber prices, and prevent them from making any considerable advance. Besides, the general observation is as pat here as anywhere, that lumber seldom advances in the spring.

The conclusion is that there will be plenty of lumber for sale—fully equal to the demand—a large consumption in house building, and a range of prices not much different from those now prevailing, though a little lower towards summer on all common grades.

Receipts of lumber, shingles, etc., for the week ending Feb. 21, as reported by the Lumberman's Exchange:—

RECEIPTS.	Lumber.	Shingles.
1884	3,850,000	653,000
1883	1,023,000	1,692,000

FROM JANUARY 1, 1884, TO FEBRUARY 21, 1884, INCLUSIVE.

RECEIPTS.	Lumber.	Shingles.
1884	23,332,000	8,369,000
1883	17,093,000	8,374,000
Increase	6,239,000	
Decrease		5,005,000

STOCK ON HAND FEB. 1.

	1884.	1883.	1882.
Lumber	583,278,903	600,572,672	471,850,.03
Shingles	437,745,250	273,964,750	200,600,447
Lath	69,560,096	65,176,314	46,021,923
Pickets	1,618,999	3,044,790	3,082,623
Cedar posts	453,436	87,260	183,469

OSWEGO, N. Y.

From Our Own Correspondent.

We cannot change quotations excepting on coarse lumber, which seems to be in excess of demand, and is being sold at ruinous prices, probably to make room for spring arrivals. Trade continues dull, the weather being very unfavorable for outdoor work:

Three uppers	$45 00@46 00
Pickings	35 00@36 00
Fine, common	20 00@25 00
Common	13 00@16 00
Culls	10 00@13 00
Mill run lots	16 00@18 00
Sidings, selected, 1 inch	30 00@35 00
1¼ inch	30 00@38 00
Mill run, 1x10, 12 inch	17 00@19 00
selected	22 00@20 00
Shippers	13 00@16 00
Strips, 1 and 1¼ inch mill run	14 00@18 00
" " " culls	10 00@12 00
1x6 selected for clapboards	22 00@35 00
Shingles, XXX, 18 inch, pine	4 00@ 4 50
XXX, 18 inch, cedar	3 25@ 3 50
Lath	2 00@ 2 25

BOSTON.

Cotton, Wool and Iron of Feb. 21, says:—The weather has been unfavorable to general trade, but as the season advances and building plans develop it is evident that there is to be a very fair average call for soft lumber during the spring. Prices seem to keep along just about the same as of late. In yellow pine there has been a good deal doing of late on large schedules for both foreign and domestic use. Hard-