

CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

It is a question with buyers of lumber where the stock can be obtained rather than the price which is to be paid for it. At present dealers are visiting every likely point in search of the same class of stock which two years ago was a drug upon the market. There has been a wonderful revival of trade in the United States, and an almost unprecedented demand for box lumber. This box requirement has affected other lines, which have been purchased to some extent as substitutes for box-making. The duty of two dollars has but little effect on prices on this side of the line, the consumer almost invariably paying the tax. It is a singular fact that in the Georgian Bay district prices seem to be firmer and conditions generally better than in the Ottawa district.

The improved conditions in the hardwood trade have caused a greater development of that industry this year, but notwithstanding an increased production, it has been found impossible up to the present to locate any quantity of dry stock. The demand has been quite equal to the supply, and dealers have been obliged to buy the lumber in the log in order to secure it. From present indications there will be no weakening of the market this season.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

During the past week there has been some improvement in the demand for lumber throughout Manitoba and the Northwest, and dealers are showing a disposition to stock up for fall trade. There is a possibility that prices will advance later in the season, although this advance is likely to be confined to the classes of lumber which are used most largely for finishing purposes. In British Columbia the mills are taxed to their utmost capacity, and in some sections building operations have been delayed on account of the scarcity of lumber. On July 15th the saw mill owners of East and West Kootenay formed a combine for mutual benefit, and eventually with the object of obtaining more remunerative prices for their products. It will be several months, however, before the combine is in working order.

UNITED STATES.

There does not appear to be a weak spot in the United States lumber market. The urgency of demand is well defined by our Buffalo correspondent, who points out that in that market there is no stock of any account excepting of barn boards. The Buffalo dealers have adopted a new price list, which will be found in another column. Although eastern dealers are said to have contracted for considerable stock to be delivered this fall, it is learned that several of them are now in the upper lakes district, in the hope of contracting for further supplies. They are also turning their attention to Ontario, prices having now reached a point which will permit of buying Canadian stock and paying the duty. One dealer reports that Canadian pine will go into Buffalo freely, and that he is prepared to handle it in quantity. It is yet too early to properly gauge the fall trade, although all indications point to a continuation of good business. Some manufacturers even go so far as to predict a famine in lumber late next fall and during the winter. Their views are based on the fact that the lumber demand so far this season has been from railroads, for construction work, and for manufacturing purposes. The country trade has been of little account, but now that crop prospects promise favorably, a considerable demand from that quarter is likely to be experienced. It is also pointed out that retail dealers hold no stocks of any account, their purchases having passed almost immediately into the hands of consumers.

The hardwood market is quite as strong as it was one month ago. Excepting in maple and basswood, prices have stiffened. These show a slight weakening. Ash and oak are being shipped green from the saws, and it is difficult even to buy green stock

FOREIGN.

The tendency of lumber prices in the British market is to harden, in consequence of higher freights. Both pine and spruce are improving in value, and the bulk of the c.i.f. business is arranged up to August. Importers are busy receiving their cargoes, and there is very little buying, partly due to the fact that shippers are unwilling to make further sales except at considerably higher prices. In the Lonkon market 11 inch spruce deals are very scarce. Importers and consumers are awakening to the fact that the available supply of Canadian spruce this season will not be large, and it is anticipated that there will be exhibited a strong desire to contract for fall cargoes. It would be no surprise if an advance of 10s per standard would be paid for spruce deals before the season is over, and some merchants even anticipate that this price will be exceeded. At Liverpool consumption continues good. Prices are much firmer, and the stock has become reduced. At Sunderland prices have been so high that importers have refused to buy, but now they are realizing that they have to pay somewhat higher for their goods in order to secure them. The market for square timber is rather weak, and evidences are seen each day that this class of timber is gradually being superseded by deals and boards.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The South River Lumber Company is shipping 85 car loads of board pine to Montreal, en route to Great Britain.

W. H. McCual has purchased from the Bank of Ottawa the balance of the stock of lumber of William Mason & Sons, Ottawa.

There is a great scarcity of lath at Michigan points, and the price has nearly doubled within a year. No. 1 white pine sells at \$2 to \$2.25, and No. 2 at \$1.75.

A. E. Alexander, of Campbellton, N. B., desires to purchase 10,000 railroad ties, 8 ft. long, 6 in. thick, and 7 in. face, loaded on cars on any station on the Intercolonial railway.

At Boston white ash 1 inch, is selling at \$42 to \$44, and 2 in. at \$48 to \$50. Brown ash holds its own at \$39 to \$41 for 1 in., and \$43 to \$45 for thicker. Elm is selling freely at \$30 to \$32 for 1 in., \$32 to \$34 for 1 1/2, 1 1/2 and 2 in., and \$35 for 3 in. In maple some shading of prices is reported, 1 in. sells at \$26 to \$28, 1 1/2 and 1 1/2 in. at \$28 to \$30, 2 in. at \$29 to \$30, and 3 and 4 in. at \$34 to \$36.

The wholesale lumbermen of Chicago last week advanced prices on white pine from 50 cts to \$1 per thousand. Finishing lumber, 12 in. stock boards, box boards and flooring strips were advanced \$1 per thousand; No. 1 common boards, 8, 10 and 12 in., 50 cts per thousand; No. 2 12 ft. boards, 8, 10 and 12 in., 50 cts per thousand; No. 2 boards, 10 and 14 ft., 7, 10 and 12 in., \$1 per thousand. Extra cedar shingles were advanced to \$2.50, white pine lath to \$2.90, and mixed lath to \$2.75.

Following is a comparative statement of timber, &c., measured and culled at Quebec to August 1st, 1899:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Waney white pine, cu. feet.	1,056,372	1,112,013	1,237,183
Square white pine, cu. feet.	440,000	510,000	4,800,000
Red pine, cu. feet.	107,277	132,370	110,649
Oak, cu. feet.	1,038,466	999,884	442,240
Elm, cu. feet.	870,289	105,374	465,851
Ash, cu. feet.	80,230	7,973	54,146
Basswood, cu. feet.	55		
Hutternut, cu. feet.	673	887	60
Tamarac			415
Birch and Maple, cu. feet.	183,093	106,538	231,916

Messrs. John Mitchell & Company, of Leith, Scotland, held an auction sale of wood goods on July 18th, at which a large quantity of waney board pine, pine deals, etc., were disposed of. The waney board pine sold at 2s 9d to 3s 2d per cubic foot for large sized logs, and 2s 6d to 2s 8d for the smaller logs. A parcel of birch logs was disposed of at 1s 8d to 1s 11d per cubic foot. First quality white pine deals, broad and long, sold at 3s 3/4d, whilst 10 and 11 feet broad deals and 14 to 16 feet 11 x 3, of similar quality, sold at 2s 10d, and deal ends of broad dimensions at 2s 7d, with 11 x 1 at 2s 4 1/4d. First quality white pine boards, 1 1/2, 1 1/2, 1 1/2, and 2 in.

sold at 2s 5d to 2s 6d, and 4 to 6 x 3 strips brought 2s 5d for 12 to 16 feet lengths.

BUFFALO AND TONAWANDA.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

"The price of pine lumber has now advanced so far that we are bringing it in from Canada right along, and pay the duty," said a Buffalo lumberman this week. This is the first note of the change of base, though there has all along been more or less receipt of lumber, especially hardwood, from the other side of the line ever since the two dollar tariff was enacted. It is not denied that the heavy tax on imported lumber is to be paid with reluctance, but it is becoming something of a necessity, for it is a very hard task—and growing harder every day—to get a sufficient supply of any sort of lumber here. It used to be thought, and probably was the idea still when the Dingley tariff was put on, that we were not in any particular need of Canadian forest products, and could take them or leave them as we liked. The consumption of lumber has suddenly increased and is still increasing at a rapid rate. Prices have bounded up all along the line, and it is now found that, even in midsummer, it is impossible to increase the stocks very materially.

What is to be done? Every dealer who comes back from the lake pine district reports that he is not able to buy any dry lumber, and that he must take it not even sawed if he gets any. So he buys in the log, with the saw mill man as indifferent to the deal as though he were asked for an opinion on the weather. He can sell all he can produce for a long time and he well knows it. So it is in line to go across the line for help. Let Canada send us her poorest cuts if she likes, as used to be the complaint. Box lumber is the scarcest, and it is selling as high as \$16 for thick cuts. We want all sorts. There is said to be nothing in pine that can be called really plenty but barn boards.

As to hardwood, the demand for oak is still at its highest, with no material increase in the supply. So many hardwood dealers have of late made oak a specialty that the whole country has been practically laid under contribution, and yet there is not enough. The Scatcherd mills at Memphis are running strong, the Buffalo Hardwood company, Taylor & Crate and H. S. James are getting supplies from the Yazoo delta country in Mississippi, the Empire Company has lately bought a tract in Arkansas and will have a mill running there in a week or two, with another to follow the Sullivans are getting large lots from Michigan by lake, and G. Elias & Bro. are looking for a tract to buy, finding that they cannot pick up lots already sawed fast enough to keep them supplied. The McLeans have a sort of monopoly in Indiana and are stocking up some. Scatcherd is still in Canada for elm and ash, but the search for oak there appears to have been about given up.

The demand for strictly southern woods, yellow pine and cypress, is not very strong, especially as mill men there are also indifferent to northern customers, the ocean trade being so strong. There is a good demand for poplar, with small supply, though it is not so scarce as it was in the spring.

Has Canada any surplus shingles and lath? Both are very scarce and growing scarcer, according to the general report. Even red cedar shingles, which were at one time rushed in here from the Pacific coast at a rate that no market could stand up under, are as scarce as anything. As it stands now there is nobody disposed to stop off and cut out much of a stock of either shingles or lath. There is larger business in hand.

The Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers have this season held several meetings and discussed grades and prices, with the result that new price lists have been issued, but the latest meeting was with representatives from Saginaw and Cleveland added, and a general list has been issued, which I send you. The report of credits is most satisfactory. The doubt-

ful creditor is no longer plenty. It has been a long time since payment was so prompt.

Receipts of lumber by lake are large, especially at Tonawanda, which is able to boast as high as 30,000,000 feet in a single week. Buffalo received over 11,000,000 feet in a week in July, at present doing a great part of its lumber business all rail. Notwithstanding the heavy re-

WANTED

Rock Elm, cut to order.
Soft Elm, all thicknesses.
Black Ash, all thicknesses.
State quantity you can supply, with lowest prices.
JAS. G. CANE & CO.,
35 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ont.

Sieveking, Podmore & Co. WOOD AGENTS

7 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, ENG.
Cable Address: Branch at LIVERPOOL.
"Sieveking," London

HESSLER & CO.

WOOD AGENTS AND SHIP BROKERS

West Hartlepool, ENGLAND
Branch Offices in Hull and Newport, Mon.
Cable Address: "Hessler," Westhartlepool.

H. D. WIGGIN BOSTON, MASS. 89 STATE ST.

will inspect at mill and PAY CASH for
LOG RUN
Elm, Ash, Bass and other Hardwoods
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

TELEPHONE POLES

The undersigned have in stock a large number of Telephone Poles, all lengths, 25 to 60 feet; also Fence Posts. Quotations given promptly by mail or wire when required.

GEORGE & McWEGOR,
Killaloe Station, Ont.

WANTED FOR EXPORT

All kinds of Logs and Lumber
Payment by Montreal Bankers.
DENNY, MOTT & DICKSON - LONDON, ENG.

WANTED

MESSRS. JOSEPH OWEN & SONS, Ltd., of Liverpool, Eng., are open to treat for regular supplies of large quantities of **HARDWOOD LUMBER**, and will be glad to hear from holders who have to offer **WHITE ASH, WHITE OAK, SCALY BARK and SECOND GROWTH HICKORY, POPLAR and WALNUT**, in logs, plank and boards, also prime fresh **BIRCH LOGS** of large dimensions.

BUYERS AND EXPORTERS OF WHITE PINE AND HARDWOOD

SWAN-DONOGH LUMBER CO.
WHOLESALE LUMBER DEALERS.
North Tonawanda, N.Y.
Cable Address, "SWAN DONOGH—TONAWANDA Lumberman's Code."

MILL MEN

Who have desirable lots of 1 to 3" firsts and seconds Soft Elm and 1 to 3" firsts and seconds Brown Ash ready for immediate shipment, will please send full description of stock, stating dryness, lengths and widths, with best cash price f.o.b. cars and freight rate to Boston, to

LAWRENCE & WIGGIN
Wholesale Lumber Dealers - 55 Kilby Street, BOSTON, MASS.