

with a more urgent demand for hemlock than for any other class of lumber. Large quantities have recently been sold in Toronto at good prices.

In view of the industrial depression in the United States lumbermen are proceeding cautiously in woods operations this winter, and there is every reason to believe that the production of pine logs in Ontario will be curtailed about one-fourth as compared with last season. Still lighter operations will prevail in hardwoods, as the expense of logging is considered too great in comparison with the prices ruling for lumber.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Considering the somewhat unfavorable conditions, the market for spruce lumber keeps up remarkably well. Building operations in New York have been further tied up by labor troubles, and the consumption of lumber in that city is likely to be greatly curtailed, yet buyers there seem willing to purchase spruce whenever it is offered at reasonable prices. Quotations generally are unchanged, although clapboards are less firm than a fortnight ago. Canadian shippers who were then getting \$45 for No. 1, Boston delivery, report that the best offer now is \$44, while clears which sold at \$43 now command only \$41. Other grades are correspondingly weak, but at the lower prices the market has held quite steady. Spruce laths are in steady demand at \$3.10 to \$3.20 for 1½ inch and \$3.25 to \$3.35 for 1¾ inch. New Brunswick cedar shingles are steady at \$3.40 for extras on Boston rate of freight.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

There is now a more plentiful supply of pine and spruce lumber, also British Columbia cedar and fir, the demand of late having fallen off. Many of the new buildings in Winnipeg are nearing completion and dealers are disposed to reduce their stock of lumber before placing further orders. A steady trade throughout the winter months is looked for. Lath has declined to \$3.25 in car lots f. o. b. Winnipeg.

There has recently been considerable activity in timber circles in British Columbia. Several valuable limits have been acquired by Americans who purpose erecting mills, and who evidently believe that that province offers good opportunities for lumbering.

UNITED STATES.

Unsettled conditions dominate the iron and steel industry of the United States. Steel billets and steel products generally have been reduced in price, in keeping with a falling off in demand therefor. Such adjustment is regarded by many as strong evidence of the near approach of less prosperous times, and in many quarters there is a disposition to pursue a policy of retrenchment. Dealers are not buying lumber in large quantities, apparently believing that they will be able to

purchase at lower prices next spring. Nevertheless, there is a very satisfactory movement of lumber, the large crop of corn and average yield of wheat having placed the farmers in a position to carry out necessary improvements. Such a thing as pessimism does not exist, the opinion being that there will be a steady demand for lumber throughout the winter months. The shipments from Minneapolis during the month of October were upwards of 43,000,000 feet, as compared with 37,000,000 feet for the corresponding month of last year. From Duluth 38,000,000 feet were shipped last month, which figures indicate a very satisfactory volume of trade. There has been no abatement in the demand for box lumber, the supply of which is more nearly exhausted than for a long time. Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers state that there is a steady call for barn and box boards and a continued shrinkage of low grade stocks. While there is not the snap to the demand for hardwood lumber which was in evidence one month ago, there is constant buying of small lots by consumers, such as implement and furniture factories, and an exceedingly good trade in quartered oak. Hemlock lumber is quite active, with prospects favorable for a continuation of prevailing conditions.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The best that can be said of the British lumber market is that prices continue steady. Consumption has not increased and consumers are disposed to purchase very cautiously. On the other hand, values of lumber in stock show a hardening tendency, which would appear to be the result of the firm prices that are asked by shippers for next season's stock. There is a movement on foot to base the asking prices on the average of actual values obtained this year, which would probably be satisfactory to shippers. In London importers are apparently in favor of slightly lower prices, but it is a question whether they will be successful in bringing about any reduction. Broad first quality pine deals are selling at from £32 to £34 per standard, 11 inch at £29 to £31, and ends at £22 to £24. Some transactions in spruce have recently taken place at slightly advanced prices. At Preston and one or two other ports there is a scarcity of 3x7 inch spruce. Square and waney timber is not selling as readily as might be expected. The long continued depression in the furniture trade has restricted the consumption of birch, and the stock on hand is considered to be sufficient to meet requirements. Canadian oak has sold quite freely at a slight advance.

The attention of mill superintendents who may be looking for a good position is directed to the offer of a Quebec lumber and shingle manufacturing company appearing among the want advertisements of this paper.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The steamer Gulf of Venice is loading deals at St. John, N. B., for the United Kingdom.

James Vaughn, of Bridgewater, N. S., expects to take out about 5,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

The schooner Clarence H. Schafner is loading lumber at Annapolis, N. S., for the West Indies.

The steamer Forest Holme is loading a cargo of deals at West Bay, N. S., for the United Kingdom.

The Canadian Northern Railway Company are advertising for 500,000 ties to be delivered at Battleford, N. W. T.

Lath are somewhat dull. In Chicago \$3 to \$3.10 is asked for white pine, while there is a wide range in the prices asked mixed.

It is estimated that on the Menominee river the cut of logs this winter will be from 50,000,000 to 75,000,000 feet less than last season.

Logging operations in Michigan will be on a smaller scale this season, the disposition being to curtail operations owing to the coming presidential election.

The San Juan Lumber Company, which is operating on the west coast of Vancouver Island, B. C., shipped during the past season about 8,000,000 feet of lumber.

A deal is said to have been closed by which the Murray & Stewart mill at Duluth will cut 200,000,000 feet of lumber for the Edward Hines Lumber Company, of Chicago.

The schooner J. E. du Bignon has just loaded 600,000 cedar shingles at Quaco and is about to complete a cargo of 3,000,000 shingles at St. John, N. B., for Philadelphia.

Wilson & Company, who have been buying standing timber in the vicinity of Nanaimo, B. C., have commenced operations at French Creek and expect to take out a large quantity of logs this winter.

Cornelius Aylwat and N. Tupper, of Baker Settlement, N. S., have just completed a contract to furnish the Halifax and South-Western Railway with 10,000 sleepers and have been given a second contract for a similar quantity.

The Bangor Commercial says that 113,000,000 feet of logs have this season been rafted down the river from the Penobscot boom, as compared with 144,000,000 feet in 1902. The lumbermen this year have had many difficulties to contend with, chief among which was the unusually low pitch of water in the rivers.

J. P. Mosher, who has been operating a rotary mill at Musquash, N. B., for the Knight Bros. Company, has already manufactured this fall about 2,500,000 feet of lumber. A cargo was shipped to

the United Kingdom and the remainder of the lumber has been piled up. Knight Bros. have sixty men working in the woods this winter.

Under date of October 24th Messrs. S. P. Moxson, Son & Company review the Barbados market as follows: "There have been no arrivals during the fortnight of either white pine or spruce. A mixed cargo of white pine, spruce and hemlock, sold by us, should be due in about two weeks. Two hundred thousand feet second quality white pine and a similar quantity of first and second hemlock was offered on 19th to arrive, but nothing definite has as yet been done on the latter; the former was placed at \$23. In shingles the steamer "Orinoco" brought 300,000 cedar laying, which have been stored, also a small lot of laying, which we placed at \$2.30, a lot of 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8-inch dimension, which we sold at \$4.75 to \$9.75, and a few long cedar, which brought \$6. On the 17th inst. the "James W" arrived with 1,550,000 laying cedar, which (with the exception of 290,000) we had sold to arrive at \$2.30. There is another cargo of one and one-half to two million laying cedar shortly due, which was contracted for some weeks ago."

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

There is really very little of interest in the Ottawa district market at present. Shipments from Montreal for export are better than they were a few weeks ago. The last boat sails for Lord Alverstone's country on the 21st, and it will carry a goodly supply of lumber from the Ottawa river and Cache Bay points. A shortage of cars is complained of and this has something to do with the movement of lumber. The local shipment to New York points is not very large.

Of course, the oft repeated trouble of scarcity of men in the woods is heard day in and day out, yet while some maintain that there will be a shortage of fully twenty-five per cent. in the log output, others claim that, as the season started earlier, the log output will run closer to that of last season.

One thing is certain, there will be a falling off in the production of square timber. The Kippewa district was well trimmed last season and it and the others will make poor measurements this season.

The report that the cut of McLachlan Bros.' mill at Arnprior has been sold to E. H. Lemay, of Montreal, is refuted in Ottawa lumber circles. The item as a matter of fact referred to last year's cut, whereas, as is well known, this was negotiated long ago, and no mill has 40,000,000 or 20,000,000 feet still on hand. The big sales will hardly be made before December or January.

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