

though white ash is quiet. Prices generally have an upward tendency. In Wisconsin the stock of dry hardwood is short. In hickory, rock elm and hard maple there is almost a famine.

FOREIGN.

There appears to be a little more activity on the part of British importers in buying for next season's delivery. The Timber Trades Journal announces that a number of leading shippers have sold over a third of their year's production, while of a few specially favorite stocks more than half has already been placed. There are indications that current prices will be maintained, unless the engineering strike should prove a greater barrier to trade than is anticipated, but it is almost certain to be settled before many weeks, and then increased consumption may be expected. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia spruce deals continue low in price. Quebec deals are firmer, especially the better grades. The prospects for Canadian spruce are not discouraging, as the wood seems to be growing in favor at many of the ports. A little caution on the part of shippers will greatly assist the market in recovering its former strength. At Liverpool there are numerous enquiries in the market from contractors, railway companies and other large consumers, and important contracts will shortly be entered into.

STOCKS AND PRICES. CANADA.

The Kalousa is loading lumber at Cheminus, B.C., for Sydney, Australia.

M. M. Boyd & Co., of Bobcaygeon, Ont., sent a gang of men to their limits in Glamorgan last week.

Prouty & Miller, of Newport, Que., are getting out timber this year from their limits in Oxford.

James Hart, of Rosseau, Ont., has a contract to get out 15,000 feet of logs and 1000 cords of shingle bolts.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company have a camp of 20 men getting out stave timber on the Rainy River.

David Maxwell & Sons, agricultural works, St. Marys, Ont., are in the market for hardwood logs of all kinds, cut to fourteen feet lengths.

Mr. G. M. Warren, of the Imperial Lumber Co., Toronto, has been in Michigan recently. This company handles about 30,000,000 feet of deals in a season, securing a portion of the stock in Michigan.

Two timber berths were sold at the Crown Lands office, Fredericton, N.B., last week, as follows: 2 miles on Muniac river, Vic. Co., to Geo. T. Baird, at \$35 per mile; 2 miles on N.W. Miramichi river, below Chaplain's Island, to P. Hennessy, at \$112 per mile.

The following shipments were made from St. John, N.B., last week. For Buenos Ayres, per bark Antilla, 239,532 ft. boards, 275,096 ft. scantling, 25,596 ft. planks, by A. Cushing & Co. For Belfast, per s.s. Teelin Head, 2,070 ft. white pine plank, 31,798 ft. do deals, 1,709 ft. do ends, 2,933 ft. hemlock boards, 95,999 ft. deals, 1,515 ft. ends, 89,358 ft. deals and battens. For Glasgow, per s.s. Concordia, 116,369 ft. pine deals, 1,158 bales wood pulp, and 38,349 ft. deals, by W. M. Mackay; 193,115 ft. deals, by N. H. Murchie; 24,516 ft. box boards, 64,827 ft. pine deals, 187 ft. ends, 22,279 ft. spruce battens, by A. Cushing & Co. For Liverpool, per s.s. Lake Winnipeg, 140 tons pulp, 27,626 ft. deals and battens.

FOREIGN.

The Saginaw Salt and Lumber Co., of Saginaw, Mich., are shipping considerable lumber to the Argentine Republic.

The Buffalo market wants dry soft elm and hickory. There is a good export demand anticipated as soon as business commences to move in the spring.

At Boston the lumber market is quiet. The call for clapboards is better than for any other material. Short lumber is in very light supply. Spruce frames are gaining in strength, and efforts are being

made to get the ruling price at \$13. From Portland, Maine, a large quantity of lumber is being exported.

In the Wisconsin valley the production of logs this winter will exceed that of last year by about one-third. An increase will also be made in the Upper Mississippi.

It is estimated that the mills at Alpena, Mich., will have 100,000,000 feet of logs for next season's supply. The output of these mills this year was 105,200,000 feet.

C. H. Bradley & Co. estimate that there is 130,000,000 feet of lumber on the docks at Duluth—Superior, of which 30,000,000 feet is sold, leaving 100,000,000 feet of unsold lumber.

It is reported that the Kirk-Christie Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, have contracted for the supply of 4,000,000 feet of basswood, birch and elm logs, to be sawn at Menominee.

Messrs. R. Wade, Sons and Co., Limited, Hull, Eng., have obtained the contract for supplying the Midland Railway Company with timber, deals, scantling, &c., required during the next twelve months.

There is some improvement in the hardwood trade at Buffalo and Boston. At the former place black ash is moving well, and at Boston yard stocks have become greatly reduced and prospects are good for next year's business. Good grades of dry stock are scarce at the mills.

A statement, compiled from reports obtained from the collectors of customs, gives the quantity of logs rafted to Michigan from the Georgian Bay during 1897 as 252,344,532 feet. A comparison of the two years is as follows:

	1897.	1896
To Saginaw River.....	147,280,234	166,967,208
To Detroit.....	19,966,000	20,269,000
To Tawas Bay.....	18,344,000	19,680,000
To Alpena.....	35,000,000	27,472,446
To Cheboygan.....	31,754,298	40,000,000
Total.....	252,344,532	274,388,654

It has been estimated that next season the quantity rafted will be between 350,000,000 and 400,000,000 feet.

The receipts of lumber, lath and shingles at Tonawanda this year were greater than for six years past. In 1890 the receipts were the largest on record, the figures being 718,600,000 feet of lumber. The following table shows the comparative receipts for the past ten years:

	Lumber, feet.	Lath.	Shingles.
1887.....	501,237,000	4,096,000	53,400,000
1888.....	269,572,000	16,617,000	64,900,000
1889.....	678,017,000	11,506,100	68,700,000
1890.....	718,650,000	13,039,000	52,731,000
1891.....	505,512,000	6,209,000	52,561,000
1892.....	498,000,000	6,243,000	42,809,000
1893.....	130,249,000	13,230,000	35,250,000
1894.....	406,538,000	8,495,000	31,478,000
1895.....	421,372,000	8,542,000	41,310,000
1896.....	489,676,000	7,186,000	35,827,000
1897.....	607,378,000	7,528,000	48,501,000

Lumber prices at Boston rule as follows. Spruce—Random cargoes, \$12 to \$12.50; car lumber, frames, ten inches and under, \$13 to \$14; 12 in., \$14 to \$14.50; wide and long, \$15 to \$16; boards, planed one side, \$11 to \$12.50; kiln dried floorings, \$20 to \$24; No. 1, \$17 to \$19; laths, 1 1/2 in., \$2 to \$2.15; do, 1 1/4 in., \$1.75 to \$1.90; extra clapboards, \$29 to \$31; clear, \$27 to \$28. Pine, hemlock, etc.—No. 2 eastern pine, \$16 to \$17; matched boards, \$19 to \$22; extra clapboards, \$35 to \$40; clear, \$30 to \$35; second clear, \$28 to \$30; extra cedar shingles, \$2.65 to \$2.70; clear, \$2.25 to \$2.50; second clear, \$1.75 to \$2; eastern hemlock, No. 1, \$10.

LUMBER EXPORTS FROM MONTREAL.

This has been a record breaking season in the export timber business from Montreal, the shipments being 300,420,669 feet, which are the largest in the history of the trade, and although these figures do not include sundry shipments, they show an increase of 79,416,460 feet, as compared with the grand total of 1896; an increase of 131,748,041 with 1895, and an increase of 123,011,641 with 1894. The total shipments for the season 1895 were 168,672,628 feet, and for 1894 they were 177,408,428 feet. This season Messrs. Dohell, Beckett & Co. head the list with 95,000,000 feet, an increase of 44,000,000 feet as compared with 1896, and Messrs. W. J. Sharples come second with

56,829,640 feet, an increase of 11,959,800 feet compared with 1896, while Messrs. R. Cox & Co. take third place with 38,125,185 feet, showing an increase of 12,107,885 feet as compared with 1896.

The following table shows the exports of timber made by the principal shippers from the port of Montreal for the season 1897, with comparisons:

	1897 Feet.	1896 Feet.
Dohell, Beckett & Co	98,000,000	54,000,000
W. J. Sharples	56,829,640	44,869,840
R. Cox & Co.	38,125,185	26,017,300
J. Hurstall & Co	36,319,628	24,521,000
McArthur Bros	37,866,506	19,192,515
Watson & Todd	39,359,130	25,642,000
E. H. Lemay	8,000,000	4,932,000
Sundry shippers		21,828,927
Total feet	300,420,669	221,003,609

The following figures give the quantity and value, in detail, of timber, deals and sawn lumber, etc., exported from Montreal during the season of navigation ending 30th November, 1897:

Description.	Quantity.	Value.
Battens.....		\$ 2,784
Deals, pi e, standard, hundreds.....	70,569	3,472,843
Deals, spruce and other, standard hundreds.....	13,683	432,148
Deal ends, standard hundred.....	7,157	353,346
Palings, standard hundreds.....	30,502	290
Planks and boards, million feet.....	35,510,716	739,031
Scantlings, million feet.....	289,190	6,676
Staves, others, etc.....		34,024
All other lumber.....		51,834
Timber, sq. ash, tons.....	1,787	16,920
" sq. birch, tons.....	5,801	55,951
" sq. elm, tons.....	1,808	18,507
" sq. maple, tons.....	97	1,111
" sq. oak, tons.....	397	5,781
" sq. white pine, tons.....	4,400	57,273
All other, tons.....	643	17,865

AN AUSTRALIAN REPORT.

Fraser & Co., of Melbourne, Australia, in their last monthly timber report, say:

An improved tone has been perceptible in the market during the past four weeks. The demand has been better for most of the principal descriptions imported, due partly to an increase in the actual consumption, and partly to the fact of the trade recognising that first costs at the shipping centres are very firm, and likely to continue so, while for some important classes of lumber, notably Oregon, mill quotations and freight rates have lately advanced. Business has generally been concluded without any material change being made upon late values, but we are inclined to the belief that somewhat better prices will be experienced in the course of the next few months for many of the lines which usually are upon this market. There are indications of higher rates ruling in the near future for Oregon pine, spruce deals, and white pine, while for other classes of timber there is every appearance of values remaining quite firm. Supplies on the way and loading are generally moderate in extent, and, as just mentioned, export prices are not likely to be interfered with, and as freight quotations to this port will probably be enhanced, we are therefore justified in anticipating a brighter state of business locally, even though the forecast of our coming harvest is far from satisfactory. It is now estimated that we shall have but little wheat to export after meeting our own colony's requirements.

The imports of Oregon pine have been 1,690,000 superficial feet. A shipment per Sonoma has been placed to the trade, and some other business has been done "ex yard." Prices rule from £4 15s to £5, according to

sizes required. At the former figure the bulk of the Sonoma's cargo was disposed of.

LOG PRODUCTION.

The quantity of logs cut this winter in Northwestern Ontario promises to slightly exceed that of last season. The output of the Thunder Bay district will be about 10,000,000 feet, against 3,000,000 feet last winter. Probably 12,000 cords of pulp wood will be cut, this being an increase of 2,000 cords. Last season 4,000 cords were hung up, which may possibly be gotten out next spring also.

In the Algoma district there will be a curtailment in the production of board timber, only one cargo being made this winter. The American firms are operating quite extensively, especially the Central Lumber Co. and the Estate of S. G. M. Gates, the former making an effort to clean up their limit in the township of Montgomery, and the latter intending to clean up two of the limits belonging to the Estate, viz., Grasset and Ratton. This will increase the amount taken out by Americans from former years, but the aggregate will be nearly the same as last year. Cook Bros., who formerly took out from ten to twenty million feet per annum, are this year doing nothing. Last year they sold the bulk of their logs for export. Moiles Bros., on Johns Island, have also suspended operations for this winter at least.

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