

HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE REVIEW.

Office of CANADA LUMBERMAN
August 30th, 1889.

During the month local trade throughout Ontario has been remarkably dull, but this is no unusual circumstance at this time of the year. The desire for pleasure and recreation during the summer months in Canada is too great to be resisted, and men engaged in the lumber trades generally look out for their share of enjoyment. From this on trade is expected to improve.

Trade at Toronto has been really dull during the month, customers wanting nothing but their ordinary every day supplies. There has been no change in prices. Shingles are too plentiful and the supply is in excess of the demand. There are too many mills on the new extension of the Northern and North-western Railway making a low grade of XXX shingles and selling them at any price that can be obtained for the sake of realizing the cash. Stocks are piling up at the mills and there seems to be as yet a very slow movement of the new cut. Dry lumber has been pretty well worked off and is becoming very scarce. There are a number of large stocks new cut that have not yet changed hands and the indication on that urges caution about loading up too heavy. The usual monthly blockade is in force again in Toronto. The Grand Trunk officials admit that this wretched state of affairs will continue until new delivery sidings are added, but when the remedy will be applied nobody knows.

Trade in the Ottawa valley in pine lumber and shingles is quite stagnant. Box lumber is off \$1 per M. in price. There seems to be more lumber offering than buyers therefor. Ash lumber is also dull. Unless trade improves very much in the fall the coming winter's operations in logs will be largely curtailed. Shingles are lifeless. It is hoped that the abundant harvest and improvement in the iron trade may give more tone to the market before long.

At Montreal the market shows little or no improvement, few lots changing hands, either in large or small volume, it is not being expected that much building will be done this fall. At yards there is a moderate amount of hand to mouth retail trade, and prices have ruled steady. There is a satisfactory export demand at the mills at firm prices, manufacturers not being willing to make concessions, while shippers are rather anxious to buy, the opportunity being in their opinion a favorable one. The cut at the mills is very large. The appearances for European and South American trade is good.

At Ottawa, Quebec, and along the coast of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia export business has been very brisk, and is likely to continue so until the close of navigation. The amount of square timber going forward is unprecedented.

The exports from Richibucto, N. B. from June 1st to date, to the United Kingdom amount to 5,073, 843 sup. feet, deals, ends &c. and 8,460 pailings; and from Buctouche, N. B. 24 75,609 sup. feet deals, ends &c.

The Quebec timber market keeps strong and some sales are reported. A raft of square, about 43 feet, with some 19 inch waney, has changed hands at 35c, and a raft of small white pine 23c, with red at 17c. Choice Michigan waney of 19 to 20 inch has been sold at 45c.

FOREIGN

The market in London and on the coast is reported as being very quiet. The building trade is somewhat better, but the demand is languid, and an improvement is not looked for until buyers are assured that consignments will be kept out of the market. The strike of Dock laborers has brought shipping to a standstill—a veritable blockade, as men cannot be obtained to unload the vessels. Almost all kinds of business is at a standstill in consequence. On the coast the general tone of the markets is more hopeful since the publication of the July Board of Trade returns. Steamers are fast taking the place of sailers, and sailing vessels are scarce. Freighters from New Brunswick are still advancing, and the rates now being paid are 72s 6d to 75s at which vessels are fixing freely.

Messrs. Denny, Mott and Dickson's wood circular under date of August 6th report:—

CANADIAN TIMBER.—Yellow Pine, both square and waney, continues scarce, and whilst the demand is quiet, prices are likely to go still higher in sympathy with the further stiffening of free on board value in Quebec. Quebec Oak is too light in stock to be much affected by the large importation of Southern wood, but import prices are likely to be lowered if the Southern wood finds any favor with consumers. Elm of good quality is light in stock, and commands good prices. The supply of Ash has exceeded the demand, but the importations have chiefly consisted of old and inferior wood.

PITCH PINE TIMBER.—Trade generally remains dull, although a few special orders have prevented any fall in prices for choice specifications of 12 to 14 inch squares of good lengths; but for other sizes there is scarcely any demand, and a decided weakening in values is to be noted. Stocks are more than ample for requirements, and holders are unable to obtain any appreciable profit on recent importations, after adding dock and interest charges to prime cost. Supplies of hewn logs have been small, and importers have done fairly well; but any considerable additions to stocks would inevitably bring about a great reduction in price, as the demand is restricted.

FIR TIMBER.—Stocks are still large, and consumption is limited; but owing to the fact that the greater part of the supplies remains in strong hands, quotations are fairly well maintained. Low qualities of poor average can only be moved at auction, and at prices quite out of proportion to those realized for better kinds.

At Liverpool, we note the consumption for the month of July was somewhat larger than that of last year, while the importation was about 3,000 standards more. The *Timber Trades Journal* commenting on Canadian woods says:—

"Making every allowance for the quantity of spruce which has come forward, there can be but little doubt that pine deals have been brought forward too freely, the stock at the end of the last month being about 2,300 standards above that of last year at the same time. With the close of the import season

now within sight, the increased cost of importation, consequent upon the firmer tone of the freight market, and the higher rates of insurance, we shall not be surprised to see a decline in prices if supplies continue to come forward as freely as they are doing at present. Still we cannot disguise the fact that pine, in the form of deals, boards, sidings and other partly manufactured forms, is rapidly forcing its way in public estimation, to the corresponding detriment of pine in the log, which a few years ago was the favourite and general way of sending this description of wood to this market."

Messrs. Farnworth & Jardine, Liverpool, under date of the 3rd of August report:—

The arrival from British North America during the past month have been 55 vessels, 43,901 tons, against 46 vessels, 53,447 tons to the corresponding date last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1887, 1888 and 1889 has been 186,791, 190,608 and 220,707 tons respectively.

Business throughout the month has again been fairly satisfactory. Imports with a few exceptions, have not been in excess of the demand and values generally have been well maintained.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Spruce and Pine Deals.—Of spruce the import has been moderate, viz. 9,564 standards, against 15,008 standards same months last year; the deliveries have been satisfactory, prices are steady and stocks not excessive. Pine deals have arrived too freely, but the demand continues fair.

BIRCH.—Both logs and planks have arrived too freely; the former maintains its value, but the latter have been dull of sale; stocks are quite ample.

BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The following are the official returns for the month of July, 1888 and 1889, compared, and also for the seven months ending July 31st, 1888 and 1889, compared:—

	QUANTITY.		VALUE.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Timber (Hewn)	Loads	Loads	£	£
Russia	55,042	67,573	89,658	118,866
Sweden and Norway	47,713	71,114	64,978	108,576
Germany	26,643	25,921	55,204	57,102
United States	12,271	20,917	45,485	88,715
British E. Indies	4,093	6,493	44,386	78,050
British North America	37,463	34,272	161,166	173,545
Other Countries	38,180	47,702	42,647	63,649
Total	221,430	274,052	503,524	688,533
Timber (Sawn or Split, Planed or Dressed)				
Russia	187,587	287,370	364,137	678,981
Sweden and Norway	261,449	361,380	536,483	783,140
United States	37,299	54,017	99,886	173,608
British North America	228,499	205,890	477,663	539,726
Other Countries	9,539	13,299	23,666	30,544
Total	724,773	921,956	1,501,774	2,211,998
Staves (all sizes)	11,217	21,062	46,707	79,322
Mahogany (tons)	4,327	2,804	35,183	24,752
Total of Hewn and Sawn	940,203	1,195,008	2,005,293	2,900,531

Seven Months ending July 31st.

	QUANTITY.		VALUE.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Timber (Hewn)	Loads	Loads	£	£
Russia	94,842	142,284	152,370	257,895
Sweden and Norway	287,862	364,687	395,781	531,653
Germany	116,765	139,912	267,508	369,334
United States	70,800	86,915	279,495	364,952
British E. Indies	18,978	32,635	216,661	383,680
British North America	41,879	46,184	176,425	233,501
Other Countries	290,028	348,363	285,130	409,571
Total	921,154	1,161,060	1,746,280	2,550,086
Timber (Sawn or Split, Planed or Dressed)				
Russia	342,525	549,610	652,689	1,255,020
Sweden and Norway	708,054	1,007,318	1,466,439	2,321,530
United States	168,312	238,857	413,200	758,797
British North America	405,785	404,928	885,813	1,050,978
Other Countries	47,851	72,554	126,308	204,628
Total	1,672,507	2,273,267	3,584,449	5,590,953
Staves (all sizes)	56,487	78,708	358,449	335,677
Mahogany (tons)	28,780	23,108	256,393	205,422
Total of Hewn & Sawn	2,993,721	3,434,327	5,339,279	8,141,039

EXPORT OF FOREIGN TIMBER

	QUANTITY.		VALUE.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Timber (Sawn or Split, Planed or Dressed)	Loads	Loads	£	£
	3,272	2,008	20,999	18,756

Seven Months ending July 31st.

	QUANTITY.		VALUE.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Timber (Sawn or Split, Planed or Dressed)	Loads	Loads	£	£
	12,479	8,267	76,714	68,331

The total imports of hewn timber for July this year amount to 274,052 loads, as compared with 221,430 loads in 1887. Sawn timber shows a still greater proportionate increase; during July they amounted to 921,956 loads, as against 724,773 loads 1888. The values of the imports of hewn timber for July amount to £688,533, last year £503,524; the value of sawn timber imports July 1889, £2,211,998, as compared with £1,501,774 value of imports of July 1888. The total imports for the past seven months have been: Hewn timber, 1,161,060 loads, at a value of £2,550,086; sawn timber, 2,273,267 loads, at a value of £5,590,953.

* Sale of Mr. E. B. Eddy's Timber Limits.

The sale of Mr. E. B. Eddy's timber limits took place at the Russell House Ottawa on Aug. 14th. The sale was the result of a determination of the Eddy Manufacturing Company to retire from the wholesale manufacture and sale of lumbe. and timber in order to devote more attention to the other branches of the manufacturing business at Hull. The property offered for sale comprised about 1,377 square miles of timber limits, with depots, farms, buildings, supplies, plant,

etc. Some of the properties offered were exceedingly valuable, notably the large water power saw mill, splitting mill and filling room, at Hull, the cutting capacity of which is estimated at from 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 feet per season. The other properties included lumber yards and piling grounds, and are supplied with tramways, engines and cars, slides and docks, also the steam mill at Nepean, surrounded by 32 acres.

A large number of lumbermen were present at the sale, including a lot of American lumber kings. Among those present were: Messrs. Klock, Fraser, James McLaren, E. H. Bronson, M. P. P., R. White, Pembroke; G. B. Pattee, Wm. Murray, Andrew McCormack, John Bryson, M. P., Gillies, of Braside; R. Hurdman, R. Gonroy; W. C. Edwards, M. P., C. McLachlin, Armpror; J. R. Booth, C. A. Grier.

Lot 1. Garden River Limits 83 square miles was withdrawn the upset price not having been reached.

Lot 2. North River, Turtle Lake limit 26 square miles sold to A. Lumsden at \$315=\$8,190.

Lot 3. Temiscamingue limits 125 square miles sold to J. Stuart at \$195=\$34,375. Plant and supplies \$11,650, total \$36,025. Purchaser failed to make deposit and complete transaction.

Lot 4. Antoine Creek limit 45 square miles, sold to A. & P. White at \$330=\$14,850.

Lot 5. Magnissippi limits 111 square miles (a choice lot, easy of access, well watered, splendidly timbered) was bid up to \$380 per mile, and was withdrawn as the lowest upset price was not reached.

Lot 6. Lower Dumoine 71½ square miles sold to Bronson's & Weston Lumber Co., at \$455=\$32,532.

Lot 7. East portion of Fort Eddy limits 150 square miles did not reach lowest upset price were withdrawn at \$430 per mile. These are very valuable, excellent limits and are fully equipped with plant, stock and supplies for lumber operations.

Lot 8. West portion of Fort Eddy limits 124 square miles sold to A. Lumsden at \$410=\$50,840. This was the greatest bargain in limits that has occurred for a long time in this section, the auctioneer misunderstood his instructions and let this parcel go at too low a price. It was cheap at \$100,000.

Lot 9. Coulonge limit 50 square miles sold to F. Murtagh at \$320=\$16,000.

Lot 10. 100 square miles on Black River withdrawn at \$395 per mile bid.

Lot 11. 100 square miles on Dumoine withdrawn at \$375 per mile bid.

Lot 12. 100 square miles on Dumoine withdrawn at \$390 per mile bid.

Lot 13. 110 square miles in Clyde and Eyre withdrawn at \$16,500 en bloc.

Lot 14. 179½ square miles on Madawaska withdrawn at \$8,500 en bloc.

Lot 15. Large saw mill, water power, piling ground, etc., at Hull, withdrawn after bids up to \$180,000.

Lot 16. Nepean mill site, withdrawn.

PERSONAL.

THE LUMBERMAN congratulates Mr. C. M. Whitlaw, the popular manager of the Montreal Saw Co., on his recent very narrow escape from drowning, while attending the A. C. A. meet at the Thousand Islands.

Richard G. Lay, of the district of Columbia, brother-in-law to Vice President Morton, has been appointed Consul-General at Ottawa, vice Thos. H. 11. 110thkiss.

Charles R. Pope, of Missouri, has been appointed Consul at Toronto.

Mr. John E. Barry has been appointed head of the Hull crown timber agency. Mr. Barry has been in the lumber trade for many years, first as agent for Price Bros., and then as managing director of the Escoumain lumber saw mills.

FIRE RECORD.

Wm. Milne's saw mill at Ethel, Ont., was burned Aug. 18th. Loss about \$5,000; insurance \$1,500.

Dresden, Ont., has met with a serious loss by fire. A. McVean's spoke and hub factory is levelled with the ground. Four persons were injured by the explosion of a boiler. The wheel business will be conducted as before, but the hub and spoke factory will not be rebuilt. Loss 100,000; no insurance.

The saw mill and store of W. P. Cameron, at Mainland, Hants, N. S., were recently burned. Loss \$7,000; no insurance.

The saw mill belonging to Wood & Co., Nixon, Ont., together with the planing, stove, heading, shingle and lath machinery was burned July 28th, as well as a cooper shop and about 300,000 feet of lumber. Loss \$10,000; no insurance.

The saw mill and cheese box factory of Jas. Dural, of Newington, was burned Aug. 15th. Loss between \$3,000 and \$4,000; no insurance.

The saw mill, at Father Point, Que., on the Ramouski river, belonging to the G. B. Hall estate, was destroyed by fire, Aug. 4th. Amount of insurance unknown.

Ludlam & Ainslie's heading factory, at Comber, Ont., was burned on Aug. 3rd, together with two M. C. R. cars loaded with elm bolts for Detroit, which were standing on the siding near the mill. Loss on the mill \$3,000. Cause of fire unknown.