

The situation at the head of the lakes developed before the opening of navigation, when about 60 per cent. of the season's cut had been sold. Lake shipments have kept pace with those by the interior mills, shipments for July being the largest ever known. Duluth alone shipped 55,000,000, exceeding the largest previous month on record by 10,000,000 feet.

A year ago building in Chicago was tied up by a strike. A comparison between the building of last year in that city with that of the present year will explain some of the increased call for building material. For the seven months to August 1 last year Chicago had issued 1,620 building permits, aggregating \$6,645,340, while for the same time this year there have been issued 3,692 permits, representing \$20,945,355. The building permits for twenty of the principal cities of the United States for the July just passed show an increase over last year of 42 per cent.

PRESENT AND FUTURE DEMAND.

But it is hardly necessary at this time to analyze the conditions which have prevailed during the past half year. Suffice it to say that they have been satisfactory. The question that now faces us is: "Is the demand for lumber likely to continue in as satisfactory volume during the remainder of the year?"

Having begun the year with stocks in badly broken condition, the situation in that regard has not improved up to this time, as sales have very nearly kept pace with the production. It is a fact that the assortments of lumber in the hands of the white pine manufacturers are to-day more poorly adapted to the needs of the general trade than at any time in the history of the business. Buyers have been unable to get many staple items which they desire, and the extent of the "piecing up" among the manufacturers themselves has indicated a demoralized condition.

Most of the lumber which has been shipped up to this time has gone into actual consumption. There has been comparatively little buying for the future, and the stocks held by the dealers are generally not more than is required for immediate use. While some orders have been placed in anticipation of a shortage of cars, dealers generally, both line and single yard, state that they will be obliged to buy stock for the fall trade.

As a natural consequence of the failure of spring wheat in North Dakota and northern Minnesota last fall, the manufacturers of northern Minnesota were obliged to seek a market for their product in the territory south of Minneapolis. This meant a very large increase in the amount of lumber to be dis-

posed of in southern Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and the southwestern states. This year, however, a very satisfactory crop of wheat is being harvested in the north-west, with the result that the northern Minnesota mills will be able to market most of their product in the tributary territory. This is far more of a factor in the general situation than is at first realized. Last spring the north-western railroads took a large number of settlers into the Red River valley and immediate country, an estimate placing the number at 30,000 people. These were for the most part men who had sold their valuable farm lands in the middle states at a high price, being tempted by the cheap and fertile lands of the northwest. With their first year's crop a success these settlers, who are builders of new homes, have become large users of lumber. This increase will very largely offset any de-

crease in the amount of shingles of 29 per cent.

It will be remembered that in 1899 there was a general scarcity of lath which encouraged their greater production in 1900, somewhat at the expense of shingles.

On January 1, 1901, manufacturers representing the same territory held 1,772,003,626 feet of lumber. This did not include the inventories of all those who had reported stock on hand August 1, but those not included, being about thirty, manufacture not more than a million feet a year each.

Up to August 1 this year seventy-four firms in the Mississippi and Wisconsin valleys had shipped 1,392,611,771 feet of lumber. Had reports of sales been received from all whose inventories were included in the annual stock sheets compiled January 1, they would show that the year's stock was turned this year between January 1 and August 1. As a large number of our members report this to have been true with them we take it that our statistics are verified.

SHIPMENTS GREATER THIS YEAR

Shipments for the year to date have been 23 per cent. greater than those during the first seven months of last year. The stock of lumber on hand August 1 this year is 7 per cent. less than that held by the same firms last August. No comparison with the total feet on hand last year can be made as our reports do not include all who reported last August.

The amount of lath held by the manufacturers of the Mississippi and Wisconsin valleys this August is 19 per cent. less than that held last year.

The amount of shingles

is 24 per cent. less than that held last year.

Therefore, in brief, the statistical situation is as follows:

An amount of lumber equal to that held by the manufacturers on January 1 had been sold up to August 1.

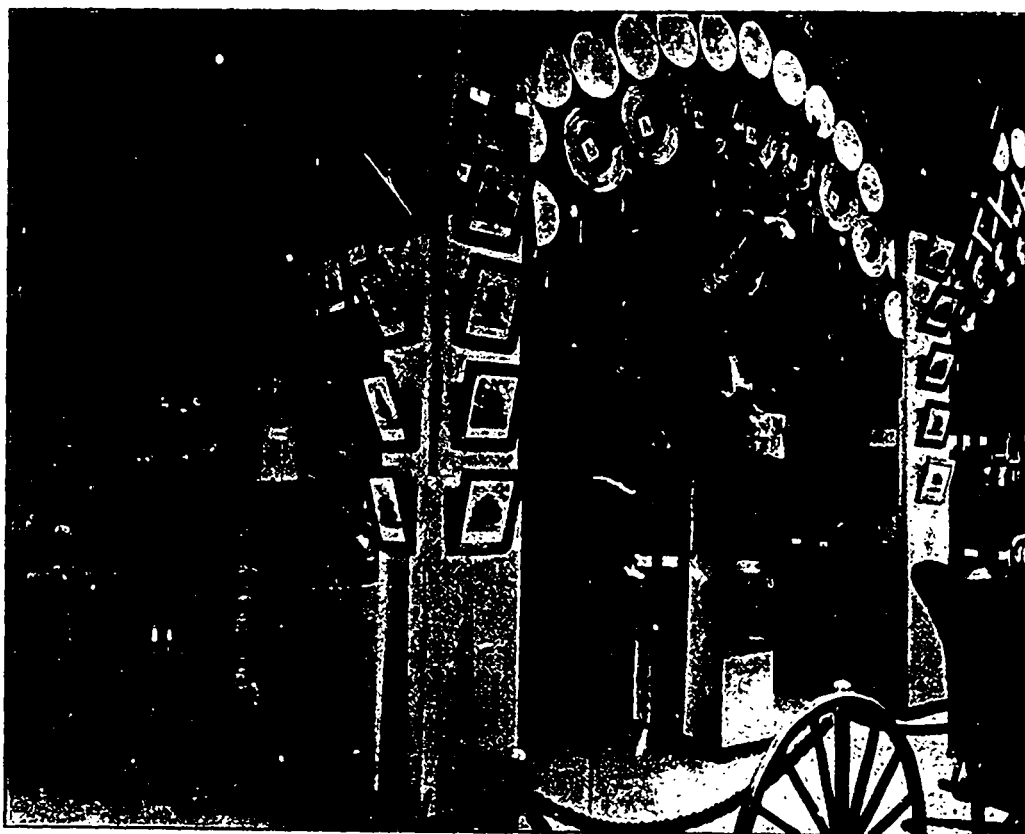
Sales to August 1 were a quarter larger than during the same time last year.

The lumber on hand August 1 was 7 per cent. less than that on hand last year. This is 18 per cent. less than that held on August 1, 1899, or, considering the same percentage of decrease to apply to all the stocks reporting the former date, is 346,330,768 feet.

The amount of lath as compared with a year ago is 19 per cent. less.

The amount of shingles as compared with a year ago is 24 per cent. less.

We stake this as a verification of our statement that the demand for the year has been largely for building purposes.



CANADIAN TIMBER AND FORESTRY EXHIBIT, GLASGOW EXHIBITION.

crease which might be experienced from the southwest, where the corn crop is a partial failure. The aggregate production of northern mills last year exclusive of Duluth, Cloquet and the range was 420,000,000 feet.

NO DECLINE IN SIGHT.

Those who have been expecting to see a decline in the price of lumber will be disappointed, and in this respect the prosperity of the northern lumberman is more than temporary.

On August 1 last year 156 manufacturers, including nearly all of the white pine producers west of Michigan, reported a total of 1,708,821,362 feet of lumber on hand. This was a decrease of 215,238,465 feet over that held by the same firms on August 1, 1899, or 11 per cent.

Reports from the same manufacturers showed an increase of 21 per cent. in the amount of lath held August 1 last year over the amount on hand August 1, 1899, and a