

depression that has afflicted that country for some years past.

HARDWOODS.

Business in hardwoods in Canada is looking better. We have heard during the week of several fair sized shipments in elm particularly, that have gone to the United States, and a considerable enquiry is made for black ash. In fact a little difficulty is experienced in meeting the calls exactly as they are made. Hardwood men are not able to secure much of an advance in price, and yet prices are firmer than they were a few weeks ago. The unfortunate experiences that come through improper inspection continues to meet hardwood men and discourage them from doing trade in some circles. In this matter, however, there is reason to believe that there has been a little less trouble than formerly and Canadian hardwood men are getting to know just who are the black sheep in the fold, and will not touch business that comes from such sources. Furniture manufacturing is reported to be improving in the United States and that will doubtless cause an increased demand for different lines of Canadian hardwoods.

SHINGLES.

"That a slightly better price is being asked for shingles," remarked a lumberman to the writer a few days since, "may perhaps be taken as showing that shingles do not intend to remain in the dumps all the year. It cannot be said, however, that with this advance has come any increased demand. Sales are about as dull as they have ever been. Of course the season is the wrong one to expect large orders for shingles."

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

The estimated cut on the south-west Michigan, N. B., is placed at 30,000,000 feet.

Exports from Nova Scotia to trans-Atlantic ports during 1894 were 106,327,205 feet, as against 109,352,930 feet in 1893.

Less than 1,000,000 feet of lumber cleared at St. John, N. B., during the past week for American ports. Shipments of deals, etc. for British ports represented 3,000,000 feet.

A representative of Canadian mills is reported to have succeeded in placing more or less black ash, mostly 1 and 1 1/4 inch stuff with the trade in New York. The price is not named.

The following recent sales of timber limits are reported: Northwest part of No. 155 and McCivern, to Pack, Gilchrist and Nicholson, of Alpena, Mich.; 516 Butt to Mr. Malby, of Bay City, Mich.; Township of Snider, to Mr. Munro, of Pembroke; 64 miles of Barnett & Mackie, Kippawa, to McLachlin Bros., Arnprior, at \$1,600 per mile.

The official figures of lumber exports from the Ottawa district to the United States for the quarter ending Dec. 31st. are as follows: Lath and shingles, \$12,461; lumber \$487,953; match blocks \$1,406; pickets \$7,706; pulp \$26,397; timber \$267; pulp wood \$214. This is a decrease compared with the corresponding period of 1893 and is accounted for by the fact that much Canadian lumber, which was heretofore shipped to American ports to South America has during the past year been finding its way direct

from Canada by St. Lawrence route to its destination.

UNITED STATES.

At Manistee, Mich., cedar logs are quoted at \$5.50 on the river, and hemlock \$3.25.

12,000,000 feet of pine lumber is held in the yard of W. B. Mershon & Co., large lumbermen, of Saginaw, Mich.

In the Saginaw wholesale market log run is quoted at \$13. to \$18, box at \$10. to \$10.50 and Norway bill stuff at \$8.50.

Heavy snow storms are reported from Michigan and Wisconsin, and are welcomed by lumbermen engaged in logging.

Ramsay & Jones, of Menominee, Mich., will cut about 3,000,000 feet of birch, basswood and elm, to fill an order from a furniture factory.

The St. Paul and Tacoma Mill Co. are in receipt of an order for 100,000 gutters and eavetroughs to cut out of clear fir to go to Buffalo and other eastern points.

The fear is expressed in lumber circles in Saginaw, Mich., that prices for coarse lumber will range low the coming season, owing to expected large shipments from Canada.

The offer of Brownlee & Co., of Detroit, has been accepted for lumber for the city, at \$7.74 for common and \$15.94 for white pine. The hemlock contract goes to the E. J. Robinson Co., at \$9.79 for dressed plank and \$9.49 for scantling.

At Portland, Me., an increase in supplies is having a tendency to weaken prices, although nominally quotations are unchanged. Frames are quoted at \$13.50; yard \$13. to \$13.50; random, \$12.50; doors, \$12. Lath are \$1.90; clapp boards \$30., \$28. and \$24. Shingles show a slight advance and are quoted at \$3., \$2.50 and \$2.

Lumber figures from San Francisco, Cal., for 1893, show a large falling off in receipts of lumber from red wood counties. As compared with 1893 Humboldt county shows a falling off of 28,018,057 feet of red wood with an increase of shingles of 4,810,342. Puget Sound held its own nearly, there being a falling off of only 493,257 feet.

A ready sale is found for red and white oak at Minneapolis at \$24 for first and second, common \$15., in car lots. Red select birch is ruling at \$27., and as high as \$30. being paid in some cases. Mill run birch is in large demand at the furniture factories at \$13. Maple is slow and in demand chiefly for flooring; price \$20. for second, common \$12. Basswood is selling at \$13. for common and better, and \$8. for culls.

THE WEEK'S COMMENT.

Toronto lumbermen are on top in the municipal contest of the past week. Mr. James Scott, manager of the Georgian Bay Lumber Co., is to be congratulated on his splendid run in ward No. 6, heading the poll by good figures. Mr. Scott has already been mentioned by one daily paper as a possible mayoralty candidate of the near future. Mr. Joseph Oliver, of Donogh & Oliver, wholesale lumbermen, made good his popularity in ward No. 2 by polling a large vote and being able to start the new year with the prefix of Alderman to his name. The council of 1895 will take an improved and higher position by the election of these two gentlemen to their numbers.

Some doubt has existed in lumber circles regarding the free entry of shingles and pulp wood from the United States. All misgivings, however, on the point, are now set at rest by a proclamation of the Governor-General, which states plainly that reciprocity in these products between the United States and Canada exists *de facto*. The clause of the tariff act of last session, it will be remembered, reads as follows: "Shingles and pulp wood, or either of them, can be imported into Canada free of duty upon proclamation of the Governor-in-Council, which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction that shingles and pulp wood, or either of them, from Canada may be imported into the United States free of duty." The Dominion government have now satisfied themselves that these conditions are being faithfully complied with.

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The disastrous fires in Toronto during the past week, destroying a large amount of valuable business property, will not be without their lessons to all concerned in building operations. To some extent Georgia pine has been used in buildings in Toronto and other parts of Canada. The recent fires show that this pine, which is full of resinous matter, is very inflammable, and on this account makes a poor and unsafe substitute for Canadian white pine. The lumber section of the Board of Trade held a meeting on Friday, 11th inst., when this matter was considered, and it was resolved, in the public interest, that it is desirable that architects and builders, who propose to erect buildings, should be made acquainted with the real properties of the southern wood, that they might recognize it a mistake to introduce this resinous pine as a competing wood with the native white pine of Canada for building purposes. Southern pine has been used in quite a number of the larger buildings in Canada lately for flooring. Attention was drawn to the fact that when floors were laid with 3-in. white pine and covered with native maple, they burn quite slowly, and thus serve as a preventative to what could easily prove a serious conflagration.

THE SITUATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

In their monthly wood circular of January, Farnworth & Jardine, of Liverpool, Eng., give the following particulars of the lumber situation in the United Kingdom.

The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been vessels, 9,241 tons, against 22 vessels, 21,166 tons during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1892, 1893 and 1894 has been 436,723,410,389 and 448,874 tons respectively.

Business during the month, as usual at this time of the year, has been quiet. Imports generally have been moderate, and the deliveries about the average. Stocks, however, are quite ample, in some articles too heavy. There is no improvement to report in values, which, generally, are unsatisfactory.

CANADIAN WOODS.—There has been no import of waney and square pine, the shipments from the St. Lawrence having now closed for the year; the deliveries have been small, and the stock is sufficient; there is no change in values to report. Red pine is seldom enquired for,

and prices rule low. Oak has not been imported; the demand has been very limited, and the stock is too heavy; values are unchanged. Ash—The arrivals have been entirely from the United States ports and have chiefly gone direct into consumption; there is no change in value to report and the stock is sufficient. Elm has not been imported, there has been a fair enquiry, and the stock is moderate. Pine deals have been imported in excess of the corresponding month during the past two years; however there has been a fair enquiry, and the deliveries show an improvement; the stock still held over, however, is too large; there is little change in values to report, although a firmer tone.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE PINE DEALS.—Of spruce deals the import has been 2,740 standards, as against 7,744 standards and 1,506 standards the corresponding months in 1893 and 1892 respectively; the stock, however, is much too heavy, viz., 19,002 standards, against 18,332 standards and 15,148 standards, the same time in 1893 and 1892 respectively; there is little change in values to report, although latest sales show a slight decline. Pine deals: there is no change in values to report.

BIRCH.—Of logs there has been no import, but there has been more enquiry, and the deliveries have been satisfactory; the stocks, although sufficient is now in a more moderate compass and prices are rather firmer. Planks are still too heavy in stocks, and the demand is unsatisfactory; prices still rule exceedingly low.

UNITED STATES OAK.—Of logs there has been no import, the stock is still too heavy and prices rule low; of planks the imports continue moderate, the demand, however, has not been very satisfactory, and the stock is still too heavy. For first class planks the price is steady, with a slightly upward tendency; inferior planks are as dull of sale as ever.

PITCH PINE.—The arrivals during the past month have been 2 vessels, 1,998 tons, against 1 vessel, 770 tons during the like time last year. Hewn wood has moved very slowly, and whilst no improvement in values has taken place, the feeling is somewhat better, and stocks are reduced to a moderate compass. Saw wood continues very depressed in value, the deliveries have been on a small scale, stocks are very excessive, and sales on contract most difficult to make. Planks and boards have moved of to a fair extent, and whilst the stock is ample, an increasing business is being done in this branch of the article.

SEQUOIA (CALIFORNIAN REDWOOD).—One cargo on contract has arrived which is going away fairly well from ship's side, the importers having sold all they could to arrive; yarded stocks are, however, still heavy, and prices rule low.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND OREGON PINE.—There have been no arrivals, the demand continues limited, and stocks are ample.

UNITED STATES STAVES.—Imports continue on a free scale, and stocks are heavy, however there is rather more enquiry and prices are steady.

Application has been made to the Dominion government by Messrs. McLaren, of Buckingham, Que., for a charter to establish a match, door, sash and pulp factory at Buckingham; capital stock to be \$40,000.