

prices are firm and there is some inquiry in anticipation of the spring trade and some disposition to supply probable needs. New Brunswick cedar shingles are reported to be slightly weaker, with considerable quantities of extras offered at \$3.40 for Boston delivery. Spruce laths are firmly held at \$3.10 for 1 1/2 inch and \$3.20 for 1 1/4 inch.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Retail dealers are placing a few orders for lumber in anticipation of spring demand but trade is by no means active. It is not expected that business will improve very much before the middle of February. In British Columbia both lumber and shingles are quiet, but a good season is anticipated. In spite of the wet weather building operations in Vancouver and Victoria are active and a number of large buildings are being arranged for. Very few logs are being put in the water, and labor in the camps is freely offering. Wages are now on about a par with those paid on the American side of the line, as there has been a further reduction this month of from 25 to 50 cents per day.

UNITED STATES.

The lumber market of the United States has assumed a more promising aspect. There is some inquiry on the part of both retail and wholesale dealers, and as a considerable amount of building is in progress, and the amount promises to increase in volume as the spring approaches, a moderate demand for lumber seems assured. Dealers in the Eastern States are looking for an active trade and almost unanimously agree that prices are likely to be maintained. There has already been a slight improvement in the upper grades, as will be seen by reference to our Buffalo list. There should be no difficulty in maintaining the price of box lumber, as grades suitable for box making are almost entirely out of the market and the demand for boxes is as great as ever. In Albany 10-inch box is selling at \$20 and 12-inch at \$21. The statistics regarding the northern pine cut and stocks show that the stock of white pine on hand at the close of 1903 was 148,167,000 feet less than at the close of 1902 and 423,704,000 feet less than at the close of 1901. The production was less than in the previous year, but it appears that stocks on hand have diminished to a greater extent than has the production. In the face of these statistics there seems to be little ground on which to base the hope of lower prices.

An increase in the movement of hardwoods is reported from several points. Before the new cut is ready for the market present stocks promise to be wiped out, making lower prices almost an impossibility. Nearly all consuming factories are operating to their full capacity, and a good demand for furniture and other goods for which hardwood furnishes the raw material is expected. Soft elm is strong and scarce and birch and basswood find ready sale. Ash is reported to be a little irregular, but it will no doubt improve upon the approach of spring.

GREAT BRITAIN.

All classes of lumber have been moving slowly in Great Britain of late. A few sales for next season's import have taken place at prices said to represent a compromise between buyers and sellers. It is generally considered, however, that there is not much possibility of a material decline in prices. During the past year the import of lumber was greater than in

the previous year, yet notwithstanding the frequent complaints of limited consumption, stocks on hand at the close of the year were not above the average. The better qualities of pine deals are in light stock and commanding full prices. The lower grades, on the other hand, are not inquired for to any extent, and in some districts prices are said to be a shade easier. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia spruce deals have arrived by the liners in larger quantities than is usual, but lumber has been readily taken. It is reported that a cargo of St. John spruce had been sold to Belfast parties at £8 13s 6d per standard c.i.f. Belfast. It is also stated that on account of the high prices asked for spruce deals some buyers have been looking elsewhere, and as a result 10,000 standards of Galatz deals have been sold to British firms for 1904 delivery. By some it is claimed that this move on the part of importers will have an effect on spruce prices. Only a moderate business is doing in waney pine, the present high prices tending to restrict consumption. Oak is going into consumption at an average rate and the stock of rock elm has been reduced to a low point.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Logs from the Madawaska timber limits are arriving at J. R. Booth's mill at Ottawa at the rate of 100 carloads per day.

The saw mill at Sidney, B.C., which resumed operations recently, has just made a shipment of 100,000 feet of lumber to Hong Kong.

The French Creek Lumber Company, of Vancouver, B.C., recently shipped logs to the United States on which they paid a dollar a thousand royalty.

It is reported that Dobell, Becket & Company have purchased from J. R. Booth, of Ottawa, the waney timber taken off his Madawaska limits this winter.

The W. H. Sawyer Lumber Company, of North Tonawanda, N. Y., recently shipped 750,000 feet of high grade pine, surfaced on four sides, to South Africa.

The Ladysmith Lumber Company, of Ladysmith, B.C., cut during the season of 1903, 6,100,000 feet of lumber, 5,000,000 laths and 5,000,000 shingles, all of which were sold.

Two Duluth firms are said to have sold not less than 75,000,000 feet of white pine lumber for the coming season's delivery, while others have sold lesser amounts and the total business already done at Duluth probably exceeds 150,000,000 feet. This is on a cut that is now estimated at not over 300,000,000 feet.

All cooperage stock is still scarce unless it be hoops, which are comparatively low and weak in price. Buffalo quotations running from \$9.25 to \$9.75 for 5 1/2 and 6-foot, which is lower than the price has been for years. Elm flour barrel staves are up to \$13.50 and basswood heading 10 1/2 cents for first-class.

W. S. Cook, of Vancouver, B. C., is a loser to the extent of some \$3,000 by the breaking of a boom of logs he had stored along the shore of Hardwick Island, on Johnstone Straits. The boom contained 300,000 feet of logs and was stored awaiting the arrival of a tug to tow it down to the mill at Vancouver. Herbert Gilley, of New Westminster, B. C., recently suffered a similar loss. A boom of logs sold to the Monarch Lumber Company, of Blaine, Wash., met with a strong wind and when

the boom reached Blaine it contained only 70 out of the 350 logs which it originally comprised.

The output of the several saw mills on the Saginaw river in Michigan in 1903 was approximately 97,000,000 feet. During the season there was brought into the river from other manufacturing districts by boat 138,000,000 feet as compared with 160,000,000 feet the previous year. How the lumber industry in Michigan has declined may be judged from the fact that in 1851 the saw mills on the river manufactured 24,000,000,000 feet of lumber.

The Department of Interior at Ottawa is asking for tenders for licenses to cut timber on Dominion lands, as follows: Up to Wednesday, January 27th, for Berth No. 1122 and comprising 110 square miles to be selected within seven different tracts in the district of Alberta; up to February 3rd, for Berth No. 1130, comprising sections 1, 2 and 3 in Township 4, Range 12, east of the first Meridian, containing 3 square miles; Berth No. 1129, comprising sections 4 and 9, Township 3, Range 11, 2 square miles; Berth No. 1128, comprising sections 22, 23 and 27, Township 4, Range 10, 3 square miles, all east of the first Meridian, Province of Manitoba; up to February 10th for Berth No. 1126 on east side of Lake Winnipeg, and comprising 2 square miles, to be selected in not more than two blocks.

Alfred Dobell & Company, Liverpool, Eng., quote the following prices for Canadian lumber:

	£	s	d	£	s	d
QUEBEC WHITE PINE TIMBER.						
Square, per cu. ft.	0	1	0	0	2	0
Waney, per cu. ft.	0	2	0	0	3	0
St. John, 18 in., per cu. ft.	0	2	3	0	3	0
Lower Ports, per cu. ft.	0	1	0	0	1	0
Red Pine, per cu. ft.	0	1	6	0	0	10
Oak—1st quality, per cu. ft.	0	2	0	0	0	3
and quality, per cu. ft.	0	1	6	0	0	3
Ash, per cu. ft.	0	1	6	0	0	3
Elm, per cu. ft.	0	2	9	0	0	3
Hickory, per cu. ft.	0	2	0	0	0	0
Birch, Quebec, per cu. ft.	0	1	6	0	0	3
St. John, etc., per cu. ft.	0	1	6	0	0	0
Birch Planks, per cu. ft.	0	0	9	0	0	11
Spruce Spars, per cu. ft.	0	0	10	0	0	0
QUEBEC PINE DEALS.						
1st quality, per std.	15	0	0	30	0	0
and quality, per std.	17	0	0	21	0	0
3rd quality, per std.	12	0	0	15	0	0
St. John, N.B., Spruce, per std.	7	5	0	7	15	0
Lower Ports Spruce, per std.	7	0	0	7	10	0
SPRUCE BOARDS	6	0	0	7	0	0
LATHWOOD, per fathom	3	12	6	4	0	0

Clairmonte, Man & Company report as follows regarding the Barbados lumber market: "There have been six arrivals with white pine and spruce during the fortnight and our market is fully stocked, but prices have been fairly maintained. Last sale of white pine for a cargo on the spot was at \$25 per thousand for merchantable and \$20 for second quality; spruce \$21.17 for merchantable and \$17.17 for second quality. Last sales of Gaspe Long Cedar shingles were at \$5.57 and Cedar Laying at \$2.05 to \$2.07 1/2. There have been no late sales of Spruce Laying. Arrivals have been "Dixon Rice," from Weymouth, N.S., with 188,000 feet spruce, sold at \$21.10; 15,000 feet second quality, sold at \$17.10; 6,000 feet white pine, \$25.10; 4,000 ft. second quality, \$20.10; 16,000 feet hemlock, \$18.10; "Lolita," from Liverpool, N. S., 90,000 feet white pine, \$25; 40,000 feet second quality, \$20; 38,000 feet spruce, \$20.50; 20,000 feet second quality, \$16.50. "Helen

Shafter," from Mahone Bay, N. S., 187,000 feet hemlock, sold at \$18 for first and \$14 for second quality; 53,000 feet white pine, \$25. Schooner "W. R. Alston" from Halifax, N. S., 110,000 feet white pine, sold to arrive at \$27 for first and \$22 for second quality. "Edouard," from Halifax, 161,000 feet white pine and spruce for Antigua."

NEW BRUNSWICK CEDAR SHINGLES

At the present time, owing to the protracted cold weather and heavy snow storms, the consumption of shingles is very light. It is well known that at this season of the year there is never much business and this particular season is if anything more quiet than usual. We understand that a good many of the manufacturers still have on hand a proportion of their 1903 cut. The winter mills are now in operation and will be in a position to make some shipments before long. These facts will make it possible for the retail trade to replenish their stocks at fairly advantageous prices.

We understand that the stocks in retailers' hands are about normal. Prospects for building operations in New England the coming spring are fairly good and we are inclined to believe that the market this winter will follow the usual course, that is to say, that prices will be somewhat easier for some little period to come. This will be followed by a hardening in values towards spring. The present quotations are as follows, f.o.b. cars, Boston rate of freight: Extras, \$3.35 to \$3.45; clears, \$2.85 to \$2.95; and clears, \$2.25 to \$2.40; clear whites, \$2.15 to \$2.25.

TO HOLDERS OF BIRCH LIMITS.

Can you cut birch into Squares, &c. We can also take birch cut on the sweep with a jigger or small band saw. Large quantities required. Write in first instance to "Finance," c/o CANADA LUMBERMAN.

J. McElmon, of Truro, N. S., has sold his timber and mill property at Folleigh Lake to the Londonderry Mining Company.

Planing, Matching, Resawing, etc. In Car Lots.

Manufacturer of Doors, Sash, Mouldings, Ceilings and Matched and Bored HARDWOOD FLOORING A SPECIALTY.

Lumber Dried in Any Quantity. J. R. EATON - Orillia, Ont. Correspondence Solicited.

TELEGRAPH POLES WANTED

We buy all lengths. Write us for prices and you will see that by cutting your Cedar into Poles it will net you more than you can get out of it in any other way.

J. B. FARWELL & SON Successors to McCaffrey & Farwell Orillia, Ont. Oswego, N. Y.

BULMER, McLENNAN & CO. WANTED: Basswood, Birch, Hard Maple, Rock and Soft Elm Lumber Office and Yard—571 Dorchester Street, MONTREAL, P. Q. Telephone Main 398. Correspondence Solicited