

were raised in 1893, and at which they remained until autumn of last year. Importers are moderating their supplies, and to use the language of our cotemporary "the feeble attempt of some of the foreign houses to make a stand will have the effect of checking buying rather than encourage business. It is quite possible that trade may be fairly active during the spring and through the summer, but unless there is every probability of a longer revival than that speculation in the timber trade would be of a most hazardous character." At a recent London sale, conducted by Foy, Morgan & Co., certain Canadian goods secured prices rather better than some had anticipated, though it has to be admitted, that these were far from what they ought to have been. The figures are said to have indicated a measure of stability in pine and spruce that was not, at least, as discouraging as has been the case with other sales. No news of importance comes from South America or Australia during the week.

HARDWOODS.

A steady, yet a light, trade in hardwoods has been done throughout the week. Shipments to United States markets have fallen off. Snow is still a block to immediate distribution. Considerable difficulty is also experienced by dealers in securing the class of lumber enquired for. We learn of orders received for elm and basswood in sizes that are uncommon to mills here, and whilst dealers have had certain quantities cut up, yet they have not been able to procure as promptly and to the extent that was required the particular sizes of lumber ordered. Cutting in prices is still practised. There are certain men in the business who are there for the commission they can make out of it, a decent living commission if they can get it, but this will be shaded considerably before they will allow an order to pass from them. Outside of this cutting the standard of prices for different kinds of hardwoods holds firm.

SHINGLES.

"No one wants shingles," said a representative of the trade to the writer a few days ago. Whatever else may be selling in lumber, shingles are not in it. This condition of the market has not prevented shingle manufacturers from Washington Territory sending their travellers into Ontario, and visitors from that section have been through here within the past week. *A* shingles have been offered at \$2.30 laid down at Ontario points. This figure would bring the manufacturer on the Pacific coast not more than \$1.20 for his shingles, a price that must run very close to the net cost of manufacture, if indeed, as it is claimed by the trade, he does not actually lose on the transaction. White pine shingles are not moving at all. Enquiry comes to the LUMBERMAN for white cedar shingles of New Brunswick, but as yet these have not been pushed in this Province.

CANADIAN TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Farnworth & Jardine's (Liverpool) annual timber circular, dated Feb. 1, 1895, which reviews the whole of the timber trade, has the following as to the importation of Canadian woods into the United Kingdom.—

QUEBEC YELLOW PINE TIMBER—The import of pine timber, with the exception of the year 1891, has been the smallest ever recorded, the deliveries have been on a correspondingly reduced scale, and the stock held over is quite sufficient. Of waney board pine, the import has been 805,000 feet, against 901,000 feet last season; it has again chiefly consisted of first-class wood, and large dimensions imported on contract for special requirements; owing to the high cost of production of this description, extreme values have been obtainable, and a further advance is demanded for the coming season; the consumption has in consequence been affected; still, as none of the cheaper woods, which have recently been tried as substitutes, have given satisfaction, it is probable that prime Canadian wood will command its value. Inferior quality, small

dimensions, and second-class wood, of which the consignments have mostly consisted, are difficult of sale, even at very low rates. Of square pine, the arrivals show a further decline, viz., 142,000 feet against 272,000 feet last year, and it is the smallest import on record; the demand is very limited, and with the exception of a few special requirements, it has almost ceased to be used; the value rules high in comparison with other woods, it is difficult to realize import cost. Red pine has almost ceased to be imported, the arrivals only amounting to 2,000 feet, against 30,000 feet for the previous year. There is little enquiry, and at its present value it cannot compete with the low-priced pitch pine; the stock is ample. Oak—The import has been 242,000 feet, against 287,000 feet last season; as in recent years, the arrivals have chiefly been on contract of special stock suitable for the railway requirements, and for this description there has been a fair demand at full values; inferior quality, however, is most unsalable; the stock is too heavy. Elm has come forward less freely than last year, viz., 91,000 feet, against 94,000 feet; the demand has been fair throughout the season, and prices ruled steady; the stock is moderate. Ash has been imported more moderately, viz., 33,000 feet, against 53,000 feet last year; the deliveries have been large, the present stock is moderate; early sales were difficult, and prices ruled low; latterly with more enquiry, values slightly improved. Quebec birch has been imported in excess of last season; large wood has been in fair request at good prices, but the small averages are dull of sale at low rates; the stock is light. Hickory—10,500 cubic feet have been imported; the demand is very limited, as this market is more conveniently supplied from the United States ports. Maple, sycamore and chestnut have only arrived in small quantities, and are in a very limited request. Quebec pine deals—Of pine deals, boards, etc., which include red pine deals, the import has been 31,170 standards, against 23,549 standards last year; the business in this branch of the trade throughout the season has been unsatisfactory, and although the deliveries have been large, at no time has it been easy to realize cost of importation, notwithstanding importers were greatly assisted by the exceedingly low freights that ruled during the season; since the closing of the St. Lawrence navigation values are firmer without much advance; first quality have moved slowly, owing to the high value; second and third quality have been more salable at the difference in cost; fourth quality are only salable at very low rates. Boards, etc., are growing in favor, and have ruled fairly steady; stocks of all descriptions are much too heavy. Red pine deals have been imported more freely than for some years past; the consumption has been fair, but the stock is ample; an improvement in the specification of these goods—especially as regards the average length, is necessary to enable them to more readily compete with Baltic red wood. Spruce deals have been imported in excess of recent years, viz., 6,594 standards, against 5,028 standards last year, and 5,206 standards in the previous one; a fair proportion has again been on contract, but a larger quantity than usual of the common qualities have come forward induced by the low freights, and for which very low prices were accepted; the stock is too heavy.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA TIMBER—St. John pine has been imported very moderately, viz., 2,119 feet, against 4,403 feet last year; the stock is exhausted. Other ports pine: Only two small parcels have arrived, amounting to 2,052 feet, against 802 feet last season; there is little enquiry, and prices have ruled low. Spruce timber has almost ceased to be imported. Birch: Of logs the import although considerably less than the two previous years, viz., 236,000 feet, against 385,000 feet in 1893, and 615,000 feet in 1892, has been more than ample; the deliveries have been fair, stimulated by the low prices, viz., 336,000 feet, against 344,000 feet last year; the stock, however, is still too heavy; prices have ruled low

without much change. Of birch planks, the arrivals show a marked falling off, viz., 261,000 feet, against 619,000 feet last year; the market, however, has never rallied from the excessive supply of last season, and the stock is still much too heavy; prices have ruled very low throughout this year, and a further restriction in the import is necessary to effect an improvement.

SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS.—N. B. and N. S. spruce deals.—Of spruce deals, the import has been the heaviest since 1889, viz., 72,339 standards, against 69,031 standards in 1893, 61,445 standards in 1892 and 54,160 standards in 1891. The deliveries, although fair, have not kept pace with the arrivals, and the present stock is much too heavy. Early in the season, owing to reported short production as well as unfavorable lumbering weather, the market was firm, and shippers were enabled to place more than their usual quantity on contract at fair rates; however, as the year advanced and it became apparent that the supply would be larger than anticipated, values gave away, and sales continued difficult throughout the summer months; during autumn, owing to financial troubles affecting some engaged in this branch of the trade, shipments were forced forward, and as most of these cargoes had to be realized on special terms, buyers could only be found at very low rates, consequently the market was further depressed, and has not yet recovered. As there is little prospect at present of any improvement in the demand, it is imperative that shippers act with more moderation during the coming season. Pine deals: St. John have not imported. Miramichi, Bathurst, Dalhousie, etc., have been in rather better demand at slightly improving prices; the stock, however, is ample.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

The barque Bundaleer, which has been loading lumber at the Hastings Mill, Vancouver, B. C., has sailed for Santa Rosalia, Mex. She has on board 716,930 feet of lumber valued at \$4,867.

Only one schooner cleared from St. John, N. B., for a United States port last week, and carried 150,000 feet of lumber. A barkentine for a British port carried 260,000 feet. The total export of lumber products from St. John in January amounted to \$127,547.

An important transaction of the week is the sale of the St. Anthony Lumber Co., to the Export Lumber Co., of New York, of the entire cut of the new mill now being built by the former concern, 145 miles north of Ottawa. The cut is estimated at 30,000,000 feet, but the price has not been divulged. The lumber is to be taken from the mill by the purchasers and shipped by rail.

The schooner Queen City, which sailed the past week from Vancouver, B. C., for Kobe, Japan, carried a cargo of lumber consisting of 9,000 feet of flooring, 160,000 feet of rough lumber and 17 cords of cedar bolts. The value of this lumber is \$2,471. The order was for no lengths shorter than 30 feet, and this necessitated a waste of space. With better lengths she could have easily taken 20,000 feet more.

D. S. Pate and W. M. Gunton & Co., of Chicago, who recently sent representatives into the Rat Portage district, have secured an option from Graham, Horne & Co., of Fort William, for the mill cut of 15,000,000 feet of logs. The pine will come from north eastern Minnesota, rafted down Rainy river and along the shore of Lake Superior to Fort William. Messrs. Pate and Gunton will go to examine the timber and see whether it is of sufficiently good grade to purchase and bring to the Chicago market.

UNITED STATES.

William Peter is reported to have made a sale of stock cut at Manistee, Mich. Ramsay & Jones, Menominee, Mich., are turning out 70,000 feet of lumber daily. Ross, Bradley & Co., of Bay City, Mich.,

have sufficient orders booked to keep them busy the rest of the season.

The Cadillac Handle Works, at Cadillac, Mich., is paying \$5 a 1000 for maple logs.

A purchase of 200,000 feet of pine lumber near Hersey, Mich., has been made by J. S. Edwards.

William Hornsby purchased last week at Baldwin, Mich., 1,000,000 feet of elm and ash logs.

At Bay City, Mich., a fair enquiry for lumber is reported, and among several sales made recently is one for 2,000,000 feet.

Holland, Graves & Montgomery, of Buffalo, have purchased the cut of lumber lath and shingles for 1895 from the Whitebeck Lumber Co., at Marinetta.

A recent purchase of 21,000,000 feet of white pine was made on the Albany market, at a price of 75c. per 1000 feet less than was paid for the same cut in 1893.

Col. Bliss, of Saginaw, Mich., has sold 1,000,000 feet of good stock to be cut at \$18, and two lots for present delivery of 700,000 feet are at the same price.

Duluth lumbermen say that trade is encouraging in the east. They expect freight rates to Tonawanda would open at \$1.75, and later in the season would drop to \$1.50.

Good popular logs and lumber, and walnut logs, if large and with lumber specially cut for the foreign trade, are said to be wanted in the New York market for export.

A despatch from Ashland, Wis., says that an export deal for 7,000,000 feet of boards has been closed, at very low figures. It is to be cut at Mellen and shipped to Liverpool.

White pine uppers hold a strong position in the New York market. Stock worth from \$49 up to \$60 finds good support, with a tendency, if anything, to advance on these figures.

A manufacturer at Bangor, Me., expects to ship box shooks to Italy and compete successfully with the home product of that country, because of the superior quality of the spruce boxing.

The Cutler & Savage Co., operating at Kenabutch, near Sault St. Marie, Mich., has barked 20,000,000 feet of logs since August, and expect to get out 15,000,000 feet more at the season's close.

The market for quartered oak in the United States seems to hold up well. Sales lately made show values at from \$40 to \$42 for the first and second delivery at Chicago, which is a rise of from \$8 to \$10 at lowest points touched during the late decline.

In the very able review of the lumber trade of the Northwestern States, prepared by the Mississippi Valley Lumberman, it is shown that the cut of the hardwood mills of that district, which take in Minnesota and Wisconsin, was for 1894, 306,000,000 feet, and the stock on hand Dec. 1st, 1894, was 197,239,000 feet.

FOREIGN.

At a recent sale of Canadian timber goods in London, Eng., the following prices were secured: Montreal, 13 ft 12 in. and up starting at £24, came down 15s. and for under cover season's stuff, considered cheap, but even at the low figures nobody bought with any heartiness. The regulars ex. "Storm King" made much the same values, and the 37 to 10 brought £18 5s. to £18 10s. The Botwoodville 3rd pine regulars at £9 15s. were about 5s. below previous sale prices. This wood is said to be equal in most respects to Quebec, and especially well assorted, but does not yield quite such a large proportion of broad dimension as the older goods from the Upper St. Lawrence, but is evidently coming more and more into favor. Sault-au-Cochon best spruce planks made £10 5s. and deals £9, while 3rd Quebec kept at the normal value of £6 10s.

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