Although the cut of spruce lumber this year has been, if anything, above the average, stocks at the present time are very light, and when the year's contracts are filled it is predicted that the stocks carried over will be the smallest in twenty years. Manufacturers are finding no difficulty in obtaining $3.60 for extra cedar shingles on Boston rate of freight.

There have been no recent sales of square or waney timber, and prices remain unchanged, but the tendency is towards firmness.

UNITED STATES.

Farmers have commenced to buy lumber liberally, and as during the summer months the demand was chiefly from the cities, increased activity has been caused by the buying throughout the agricultural districts. Most manufacturers have sold the greater portion of their cut and will go into the winter with very light stocks. The retail demand is expanding and indicates that a large consumption of lumber is expected during the fall and winter months. It is predicted that a marked shortage in several lines of white pine will be experienced. The present scarcity pertains especially to piece stuff. The shortage in dimension has already compelled some manufacturers to buy from others to fill orders. This condition is certain to result in higher prices for dimension. The strength of hemlock lumber is little less than remarkable, but is probably due to an appreciation of the scarcity of white pine. In New York last week an advance of 50 cents in the price of hemlock was put into effect, while Tonawanda dealers anticipate that an advance of from 50 cents to $1 on some of the longer lengths will be made very shortly. Buffalo retailers held a meeting a few days ago and adopted a new schedule for hemlock on the basis of a $3 advance over the wholesale price. Spruce is almost as firm as hemlock. Frames can hardly be bought in the Boston market at less than $19, with 10 and 12-inch at $21.

One of the most active hardwoods is basswood, for which there is a constant inquiry. The hardwood market as a whole is firm, with maple somewhat backward.

Red cedar shingles have advanced fifteen cents within the last ten days. This advance has been reflected in a stronger market for other kinds of shingles. White pine would be more in favor among dealers but for the scarcity and difficulty in obtaining a supply. Spruce lath was recently advanced 25 cents in New York.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The lumber trade of Great Britain have watched with some interest the result of the wheat harvest. The prediction that it would be an exceptionally poor one has been confirmed, as wet weather throughout the summer prevented the wheat from properly maturing. It is not believed that the poor harvest will materially affect lumber prices, as the stocks held are not large and imports continue to be light. The decrease in the different classes of lumber held in the Surrey Commercial Docks at London on August 31st of this year, as compared with same date last year, is as follows: Pine deals, 209,207 pieces; pine battens, 41,086 pieces; spruce deals, 300,080 pieces; spruce battens, 249,808 pieces; Baltic deals, 300,-207 pieces; Baltic battens, 1,456,229 pieces; Baltic prepared board, 5,930,166 pieces; slating battens, 2,922,707 pieces. Considering the wet summer the extent to which stocks have been kept down is quite satisfactory. Importers are discouraging further advances in shippers prices, but are placing orders at current quotations with some freedom. The key to the situation, so far as Canadian lumber is concerned, is the light stocks that all held on this side for shipment to Great Britain, the result of an increased demand at home and in the United States. The best grades of white pine deals are in splendid demand, prices ranging as high as $75 per thousand feet. For best quality spruce deals $38 per thousand feet is being paid by dealers for Quebec specifications, and $26 for New Brunswick specifications. Red pine is showing more life at slightly advanced figures. First-class rock elm, maple and oak meet with ready sale. Prices of birch have been maintained, but the stock is rather heavy.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The steamer Ancud sailed from Montreal last week for Antwerp, calling at Three Rivers to take on a quantity of deals.

The steamer Kalford is about to load a cargo of deals at Quebec for Cork. The barque C. B. Whidden sailed from Montreal last week for Rosaria, with a cargo of lumber.

There will be offered for sale by public auction by the New Brunswick Government on September 24th three square miles of timber limits on the Eel river, Lower Bay du Vin, and 4½ miles on Mc Donald's Brook, a branch of the Green river.

The Sutherland-Innes Company, of Chatham, Ont., state that the only change in the cooperage stock market is for the better. They beleive that No. 1 staves will be a little scarce later on, and that the market for all classes of cooperage stock will advance considerably before the end of the year.

At the Crown Lands Office, Fredericton, N. B., the following timber berths were sold last week each, going to the applicants at the upset price of $8 a mile. Little Salmon River, Victoria, 2 miles to J. A. Patterson; head of North Pole, branch S. W. Miramichi River, 9 miles, to Timothy Lynch; between Cow Mountain and Serpentine Lake, 6 miles, to Timothy Lynch; head of Gaspereau River, 6 miles, to Sayre & Holly Lumber Co.

Clairmonte, Man & Company, under date of August 30th, say of the Barbadoes market: "There have been no arrivals of lumber during the fortnight. Merchantable white pine is wanted, the last sale being at $26 per M, while second quality is in over supply and brings $7.50 per M. Last sale of spruce was at $19.60. The "Lizzie Lindsay" arrived from Gaspe, Que., on 17th with 506,000 shingles. Sales were made at $3.67½ to $4.07 per M for Gaspe Long Cedar."

The Fredericton Boom Company had rafted upwards of one hundred million feet of logs of all kinds up to September 1 of this year. The quantity rafted up to same date last year was only 81,000,000 feet, and for the whole of 1901 the total was 91,399,-515. The quantity rafted this season is made up as follows: 43,942 joints containing 566.40 tons of timber; 484,120 feet of hemlock; 6,498,870 feet of cedar; 3,343,310 feet of pine; 93,919,988 feet of spruce; total 104,245,288 superficial feet.

The cut of timber in the Lake St. John district of Quebec promises to be larger during the coming winter than ever before. Already several large contracts have been given out. Elz's Tremblay, of Ste. Anne de Chicoutimi, has undertaken to cut 300,000 logs at Lake Kiskisink for the Belgo-Canadian Pulp Company, of Shawinigan Falls. Israel Morin, of Chicoutimi, has taken a contract for the same company for 200,000 logs, and John Trembly for 80,000 logs. A. Jonquiere will also take out a quantity of logs this winter.

THE GLASGOW MARKET

According to Edmiston & Mitchells' monthly timber circular, a fairly active business was done in Glasgow during the month of August, both on an "ex quay" and an "ex yard" basis, and values have been well maintained throughout. The consumption generally continues on a satisfactory scale, and, as the import to date has been very moderate, the market is strong all round. First quality white pine deals and sidings are in good demand, but for lower qualities there is not much enquiry. The housebuilding trade still continues in an active condition, and the prospects for the autumn and winter are fairly good.

WHITE PINE—The imports during the month consist of about 5000 loads, chiefly first-class waney. Some good lines of first-class waney deckwood have been placed "ex ship" at prices ranging from 3s 2d to 3s 5d per cubic foot, according to size. Square timber is difficult to move; prices, however, are firm at 2s 6d to 2s 9d per cubic foot for 800 to 1000 feet per page.

RED PINE—The import consists of about 500 loads, and coming on a light stock it will meet with a ready sale, as there are some good enquiries at present in the market. Prices are firm at from 1s 9d to 2s per cubic foot, according to size.

OAK—There has been an import of about 2200 loads, chiefly on contract. There is a fair demand and prices are firm at 3s to 3s 6d per cubic foot, according to specification.

ELM—The import during the month has been about 1800 loads. A number of sales are reported at firm prices, and prospects for first-class rock elm are good, though inferior timber is difficult to sell.

BIRCH — Quebec — The imports for August amount to about 400 logs and 130 loads planks, some of which were sold "ex quay" at prices which could not be satisfactory to shippers, but the bulk of the import found its way into store. The stock is still heavy and is moving away very slowly. Lower Port—There have been no imports during the month, but there is still a considerable stock on hand which is in all probability sufficient to meet the market's requirements for some time to come.

ASH—About 600 logs have come forward during the month, part of which went away from the ships' side, the balance being stored. There is very little enquiry for ash, and there is an ample stock on hand.

DEALS, &c.—The imports during the month have been on a moderate scale, and prices still continue firm. First pine deals and sidings of all sizes are scarce, and some good lines of these could be placed at satisfactory prices if quality good. Spruce deals are moving off fast, and stocks of some sizes are low, especially 8 and 9-inch. Current values as under: Broad first pine deals, £26 to £31; 11-inch, £24 to £26; ends and non-dimensions, £18 to £22. Second pine deals—11-inch and up, £18 10s to £21; non-dimensions, £12 10s to £15. Third pine deals—11-inch and up, £12 to £13; ends and non-dimensions, £8 10s to £10 10s. Fourth pine deals—11-inch and up, £9 10s to £10; narrows, £7 10s to £8 5s. Red pine deals—9 and 11 inch, £10 to £12; narrows, £7 to £8. First pine sidings and strips—9 and 10-inch average, £18 to £20; 11 to 12 inch average, £21 to £24; 13 to 14 inch average, £25 to £26. Spruce deals—9-inch and up, £8 10s to £9 10s; 7 and 8 inch, £7 5s to £8 5s. Lower port pine and spruce—9-inch and up, £8 10s to £9; 7 and 8 inch, £7 to £7 15s.