

GRPAT BRITAIN.

The statistical position of lumber in the United Kingdom is commencing to have an influence on prices and is responsible for an advancing tendency. Nearly all classes of lumber are in lighter supply at the importing centres than at the corresponding date one year ago. Taking the Surrey Commercial Docks at London, for example, it is found that pine deals show a decrease of 84,812 pieces, and spruce deals of 111,073 pieces. In prepared boards there is the marked decrease of 1,674,935 pieces. The total stock of deals on the public docks at London on December 1st last was 1,912,207 pieces, which, at the current rate of consumption, would provide a stock for 5.85 months. One year ago the supply was 2,223,624 pieces, and the duration of supply 6.41 months, whereas at the corresponding period in 1902 the duration of the supply was 6.70 months. The present position is in favor of holders of lumber, which fact promises to result in a steady appreciation of values.

That the situation is much improved cannot be disputed, but it is only natural that a tendency towards conservative operations should prevail. A few speculative purchases for next season have been made, but buying has not yet become general. Waney pine is in very light supply at London and promises to be very scarce before next year's imports are received. There is a fairly good demand for elm, while birch planks are almost out of stock and fresh arrivals will command better prices than have been obtained for a considerable time.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Spruce lath are quoted in Boston at \$3.10 for 1 1/2 inch and \$3.25 for 1 3/4 inch, rail delivery.

The Miramichi Pulp & Paper Company, of Chatham, N. B., are contracting for large quantities of pulp wood.

Buffalo received by lake this season 189,671,000 feet of lumber and 170,118,000 shingles. The amount last season to date was 161,494,000 feet of lumber and 120,090,000 shingles.

From the opening of navigation to De-

cember 1st a total of 399,511,849 feet of lumber was received at the Tonawandas by vessel, as compared with 439,000,000 feet for the corresponding period of 1903.

During the month of November there was received at Bay City, Mich., by boat approximately 12,000,000 feet of lumber, of which 8,000,000 feet came from the Georgian Bay and the remainder from Lake Superior.

The American Lumberman says that several of the leading buyers from the eastern end of Lake Erie are at the head of the lakes and Ashland this week looking over the situation and stocks, but so far as is known have made no purchases as yet.

Notwithstanding the prevailing low price of lumber, it is probable that the cut of logs this winter in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, will not be greatly reduced, as there is considerable burnt timber which must be cut. C. T. White, of Apple River, has four camps in the woods and will cut about 7,000,000 feet. E. I. White, of Sand River, has two camps and will cut about 2,000,000 feet. B. B. Barnhill, of Two Rivers, has one camp at work. Robertson, Wright & Company are conducting operations at Shulee about the same extent as usual.

The contract for the supply of lumber for the city of Toronto has been awarded as follows: Plank \$18.69 per thousand feet, boards \$17.96, to Reid & Company; cedar posts, 1 1/2 cents each, to Reid & Company; lumber, 1 to 6 inches thick, pine \$22.79, hemlock \$15.79, Reid & Company; hemlock timbers, 12 x 12 inches, 12 to 16 feet long, \$16, Reid & Company; pine timbers, 12 x 12 inches, 12 to 16 feet long, \$21; 20 feet long, \$22; 24 feet long, \$24, to Arthur Bryce; hemlock timbers, 12 x 12 inches, 20 feet long, \$19; 24 feet long, \$21, to Arthur Bryce.

CONFERENCE CONCERNING A LUMBER DUTY.

The business men of Vancouver, B.C., and vicinity, held a conference on December 4 with Senator Templeman, Mr. Ralph Smith, M.P. for Nanaimo, Mr. Wm. Sloan, M.P. for Comox-Atlin, and Mr. Duncan Ross, M.P. for Yale-Cariboo, the purpose being to discuss the question of protecting the lumber industry of British Columbia. Mr. H. McDowell, president of the Board of Trade, was chairman.

Mr. J. G. Scott, manager of the Pacific Coast Lumber Company, briefly reviewed the situation and pointed out that the imports of lumber into Canada are increasing. While in 1903 the total imports aggregated 60,000,000 feet, the statistics for 1904 show that the importations will reach 140,000,000 feet, and the increase was likely to be steady unless protection is afforded the Canadian industry.

Mr. C. M. Beecher, general manager of the British Columbia Mills, Timber & Trading Company, stated that where a mill could be constructed and equipped in the State of Washington for say \$250,000, the same mill could not be duplicated in British Columbia for less than \$300,000. On the other side of the line mill machinery was much cheaper than in Canada. British Columbia millmen who import American machinery have to pay a duty of 25 to 30 per cent. on same. He stated that if the machinery and supplies were bought in Canada it was the same thing in the long run as paying the duty, for the Canadian manufacturer added the duty to his prices. The Northwest farmer would be protected against high lumber prices by the productive capacity of existing Canadian mills, which was much greater than the possible home consumption. Mr. Beecher pointed out that under reciprocal trade relations with the United States the lumbermen of British Columbia would be benefited by having a much larger market.

Other speakers were Mr. L. A. Lewis, of the Brunette Saw Mill Company, R. H. Alexander, of the British Columbia Mills, Timber & Trading Company, and W. C. Wells, of Palliser.

At the conclusion of the arguments advanced Senator Templeman strongly advised those interested to send a deputation to Ottawa to press the matter upon the Dominion Government.

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LIVERPOOL STOCKS AND PRICES.

The stock of timber, deals, etc., in Liverpool, Birkenhead, Garston, etc., on November 30th for the last two years was as follows:

	1903	1904
Quebec Square Pine	138000	76400
Waney	131000	225000
St John's Pine	Nil	Nil
Other Ports	Nil	Nil
Red Pine	4000	9000
Pitchpine, Hewn	110000	178030
Hewn	85000	754000
Planks	370000	314700
Oregon Pine	19000	333030
Sequoia	21000	21000
Danzig &c., Plank	60000	27000
Swedish and Norway Fir	Nil	Nil
Oak, Canadian and U.S.	221000	103000
Plank	104000	230000
Baltic	11000	10000
Elm	15000	9000
Birch	91000	70000
Ash	27000	13000
East India Teak	110000	130000
Greenheart	125000	73000
N.B. &c., Spruce Deals	12270	10930
Pine	16660	18520
Quebec Deals	4350	110
Baltic Deals & Boards	380	3070
Norway, &c., Flooring Boards	730	270
Galatz Whitewood		

The following are the current prices of Canadian lumber as furnished by Alfred Dobbell & Company:

Timber (per cub ft)	£	s	d	£	s	d
Quebec square white pine	0	1	9	0	3	0
waney board pine	0	2	8	0	1	9
St John pine, 1/2" average	0	2	3	0	3	3
Lower ports pine	0	1	3	0	1	8
Quebec red pine	0	1	6	0	2	0
oak, 1st quality	0	2	9	0	1	3
2nd	0	1	6	0	2	6
Ash	0	1	6	0	2	3
Elm	0	3	0	0	3	9
Hickory	0	2	0	0	2	6
Quebec birch	0	1	0	0	2	1
St. John birch	0	1	6	0	2	1
Birch planks	0	0	9	0	0	11
Spruce spars	0	0	10	0	0	0

DEALS (per standard)	£	s	d	£	s	d
1st quality Quebec pine	22	10	0	32	10	0
2nd do do	17	0	0	22	0	0
3rd do do do	11	10	0	13	0	0
St John, N.B. &c. spruce	6	10	0	6	10	0
Lower ports spruce	6	0	0	6	10	0
Spruce boards	5	10	0	6	0	0

The saw mill of George Upham at Nackawick Siding, near Millville, N. B., was destroyed by fire last week.

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