

TIMBER AND LUMBER IN BRITAIN.

It appears that the trade in lumber and timber in Britain is still unsatisfactory. Stocks are full and values weak. The arrivals from Canada in July numbered 46 vessels, 44,684 tons, against 53 vessels, 47,550 tons during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to end of July from all places during the three years past has been 187,505 tons, 168,604 tons, and 181,123 tons respectively.

Farnworth & Jardine say: "There is little change in the condition of our market to report. Imports of all articles have been quite sufficient, in some instances too heavy; the deliveries have been fair, but there is no improvement in values, which are difficult to maintain, especially for some of the leading articles. Stocks generally are ample."

We quote further from their 1st August circular:

CANADIAN WOODS.—*Waney and Square*: The arrivals, especially of waney, have been large; the deliveries, however, have been on a free scale, especially of the former. There is no change in values to report, and stocks are quite sufficient. Red Pine has not been imported; the value rules low. Oak has come forward freely, and a fair quantity has gone direct from the quay, chiefly to the large railway companies; prices have ruled steady; the stock of inferior wood is still excessive. Ash has come forward too freely, prices are lower, and the stock too heavy. Elm has been in fair demand; there is no change in value, and the stock is moderate. *Pine Deals*.—The import has again been large, viz., 5,468 standards, against 2,075 standards same month last year; the deliveries have been fair, but the stock is now too heavy, and prices are with difficulty maintained.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS.—Of spruce deals the import has been 12,746 standards, against 15,105 standards same month 1893, and 10,587 in 1892. The arrivals, especially from St. John, have been chiefly by large steamers, which are difficult to handle owing to the rapid discharge. The deliveries have been fair, but include between 4/5000 standards, which have gone to the Manchester canal, and probably are not all sold. There is little change in value to report, although, if anything, prices are slightly easier. Pine deals—There have been no sales to record.

BIRCH.—Both logs and planks have come forward more moderately, still the stock is so very excessive that no improvement can be expected until this is considerably reduced; recent sales of planks have been at the lowest price ever known.

UNITED STATES OAK.—Two parcels have arrived, and although shippers were prepared to accept reasonable rates, sales could not be effected, and the wood has been stored; there is no improvement in the demand for this article, and the stock is still too heavy. *Oak Planks*.—The import, although less than the same month the previous two years, has still been sufficient in the face of the enormous stock still in hand, and the total import from the beginning of the year up to date is much in excess of the previous year. There is no improvement and prices still rule at very unsatisfactory rates.

PITCH PINE.—The arrivals during the past month have been 8 vessels, 9,370 tons, against 3 vessels, 3,499 tons, during the like time last year. Of Hewn there have been no arrivals; the consumption has been very limited, although there has been rather more enquiry of late. Sawn has been imported very heavily, and whilst the deliveries have been on a large scale, stocks have accumulated, and are far too excessive to expect any early improvement in the present depressed state of the market. Planks and Boards have arrived freely, and this branch of the trade is becoming of increasing importance, but the quality and condition in which they are shipped requires special care.

SEQUOIA (CALIFORNIA REDWOOD).—There have been no arrivals, and the stock is more than ample for the demand, which is of quite a retail character, and prices rule low.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND OREGON PINE.—There have been no arrivals, and the demand has been very limited; stocks are more than sufficient.

UNITED STATES STAVES have arrived freely; there has been a little more enquiry for Hogshead Staves, but prices are unchanged; stocks all round are too heavy, and values rule low.

BALTIC AND EUROPEAN WOODS.—The arrivals during the past month have been 18 vessels, 10,296 tons, against 19 vessels, 10,938

tons, during the like time last year. *Fir Timber*.—Business in this article has been of a restricted character, and the stock is sufficient. Red and White Deals have arrived moderately, and while the deliveries have been on about the same scale, stocks of all descriptions are sufficient. Flooring Boards also have been fairly active; values are without much change and stocks are fully ample. Masts and Spars have been imported chiefly for mining purposes, and stocks are in dealers' hands.

THE PINEAPPLE CROP.

The pineapple crop of the Florida east coast—not including the Keys—is estimated this year all the way from 40,000 to 55,000 crates. These crates are in size about that of the regulation orange box, but in weight they will average, when filled with "pines," over twice as much. The freight agents figure on about 160 pounds to the crate, or 150 crates to the car. But sometimes nearly 200 crates are stowed away in a car, if cars are scarce. The average number of pineapples to the crate is sixty-four, but the fruit varies in size, some varieties growing very large and heavy. A conservative estimate of this year's crop is about 50,000 crates, or fully 3,200,000 pine apples. Last year's crop was about 35,000 crates, and the largely increased acreage coming into bearing this season led to estimates of the crop early in the season as high as 70,000 crates, or double that of 1893. But of late there has been a scarcity of rain, and in consequence the fruit is late in maturing, and in all probability the size and quality of it will be slightly inferior to last year's. As transportation facilities are better this season than last, the fruit will undoubtedly reach market in better condition.

Heretofore the pineapples of the east coast have netted the growers all the way from 4½ to 6 cents apiece on an average, although some large fancy articles would bring in from 10 to 15 cents each. If this year's crop should net five cents apiece—which now seems altogether probable—this industry would bring at least \$160,000 in cash to the east coast for distribution among the growers in sums ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000—only a few receiving less than the former amount, or more than the latter.

The marketing season extends over about seven weeks, beginning late in May, and closing about the middle of July. There are some late varieties and some late loads, so that a few straggling shipments continue up into the month of August, and sometimes as late as September.

So great has been the stimulus given to the pineapple industry here during the last three years, that a crop of fully 100,000 crates is expected in 1895. The plantations come into bearing in two years from the planting, and the cost of cultivation is not great.

Some of the pioneer growers here have become rich in the business. It is said that one year's crop, not long ago, brought \$18,000 net to Capt. T. E. Richards, of Eden, about three miles north of here. There is no industry in the world which pays better than pineapple-growing on the Indian River, and by the year 1900 it promises to yield an aggregate annual revenue of \$5,000,000, according to a correspondent.—*Shipping and Commercial List*.

A NEW AND SINGULAR DEPARTURE IN MAKING GLASS.

The new German glass is a new and singular departure in that line, disregarding as it does the ordinary principle that good glass must contain, together with silica and a divalent or trivalent metallic oxide, the oxide of a monovalent metal—an alkali metal or thallium—but while thus free from alkali can be worked before the blowpipe, and has a small coefficient of expansion. The inventor was led to the production of this compound glass by studying the state of strain in ordinary glass vessels and tubes cooled in contact with air. As a hollow glass vessel, cooled in contact with the air, has its outer skin in a state of compression, while the inside is in a state of tension, it is easily damaged on the inside, but is resistant on the outside; a hollow glass vessel, if introduced when cold into warm air, has its outer skin thrown into a state of compression, but if, when it is hot, it is exposed to cold air, its outer skin is thrown into a state of tension—this being the reason why cold air causes glass to crack more

readily than hot air does. The inventor succeeded in throwing the outer layer into a permanent state of compression by covering the glass vessel with a thin outer layer of glass which has a small coefficient of expansion. The flasks made of such glass can be filled with boiling aniline and immediately sprinkled on the outside with cold water—glass dishes, too, can be heated over the naked Bunsen flame without cracking. Pressure tubes of this compound glass are also made to meet all the requirements of practice, and have been kept in continuous use on locomotives for five months.—*Boston Journal of Commerce*.

TRADE IN CHINA.

The London *Statist* says: "Trade in China is reported to be generally very active. The silk trade is slack because of the lowness of prices in Europe, but tea is being exported in very large quantities. The crop of superior tea is short this year, and therefore the quantity of the very best kinds available for export is not as large as in many years past. But, on the other hand, there is an almost unlimited supply of other kinds to be drawn upon, and owing to the very low exchange, the silver prices obtained by the Chinese growers are higher than usual. The Chinese, therefore, are hurrying their tea to market in very large quantities. Whether they will be able to recover any of the ground lost in the competition with India and Ceylon remains to be seen. In the first place there is the shortsightedness of the Chinese themselves. They do not take the trouble to consider European tastes, and to produce the kind of teas which Europe insists upon. Besides, they adulterate to an abominable extent. Then, again, there is against the Chinese merchant the maladministration, corruption and exactions of the government. In favor of the Indian and Ceylon grower there is the fact that a tea garden has not to be planted afresh every year like a grain crop. The existing gardens were planted long ago, and the owners will, of course, gather the tea and prepare it for the market, even though the prices obtained may be unprofitable."

FASHIONABLE GLOVES.

The butter-color gloves are the newest and most popular fashion for general wear. They are very pretty and are made to have the appearance of the English walking glove, but are not nearly so heavy, in fact quite light, as they are made of a French skin that is suitable for these warm days. The buff and the neutral colors come in this style, and they all have broad black stitching. They are appropriate for the tailor-made gowns, and wear very well. They are a little higher in price than the ordinary walking glove, as they cost \$1.95. The popular glove for the summer is the suede, as it is cooler and absorbs the perspiration, and the warm weather is apt to make the glace kid stiff, although they are worn for travelling and shopping. The chamois glove would be a decided favorite if one was always sure of securing a good cut.—*American Glover*.

INDIAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

The progress of the cotton spinning industry in India appears for some reason to be brought to a standstill. Only five new mills have been erected in the last four years. Before that time the growth was rapid, the number of spindles having increased from 1,654,108 in 1883 to 3,197,740 in 1890. From the latter year, however, up to the close of 1893 the number of spindles had only increased by 180,563, and the number of mills from 125 to 130. It is said that about 121,000 persons were employed in these mills at the close of 1893. No accurate returns as to the amount of capital invested are given, because many of the mills are private establishments which make no report. Three-fourths of the spinning and weaving capacity of the Indian mills is concentrated in the Bombay presidency, with Calcutta and Madras absorbing a large proportion of the remainder.—*Industrial Record*.

—A gold-weighing machine in the Bank of England is so sensitive that a postage stamp dropped on the scale will turn the index on the dial a distance of six inches.