

## THE TIMBER TRADE OF QUEBEC.

Messrs. J. Hull Forsyth & Co. Review the Trade of the Past Twelve Months.

It is our privilege once more to lay before the trade the customary statements of supply, export and stock of Timber and Deals at this Port, which will, we trust, be found both useful and interesting.

The arrivals of Ocean Steamships and sailing vessels show a considerable increase over the previous year, with a falling off from the Lower Ports; the total arrivals amounting to 1,119,573 tons against 976,268 tons in 1888.

In our annual circular of last year we stated that an amicable adjustment had been arrived at between the merchants of Quebec and the Ship Laborers' Society concerning rules which were considered detrimental to our trade, especially to the loading of steamships. We now find that during the past season 40 steamers, aggregating 51,830 tons, have loaded cargoes at this port against 19 steamers 24,331 tons last year. We also believe that with further concessions in loading steamships with Deals, the shipping houses will find it to their advantage greatly to increase the Deal business of this Port.

It will be seen by our figures that the supply shipment and stock of timber wintering, all show a considerable increase in quantity over the previous year. The customs returns place the export at 10,415,160 feet this season and 8,551,840 in 1888. The market has been active during the entire season, prices generally have been well maintained with an advance in some woods.

**WHITE PINE.**—The supply which had reached such small proportions in 1887 and 1888 has been greatly augmented both as regards square and waney this year, the export has also increased, while the local consumption has been fair; and the quantity wintering though in excess of the previous year, which was the smallest on record, comparatively small and under the average. The great proportion of this wood is held on Shippers' account, and is comprised of this year's production to a very great extent. Choice waney has been more sought after and in better demand than square all season, while prices advanced owing to the enhanced value of timber limits, and the difficulty and great expense in procuring good and superior timber. From reliable accounts it is estimated that the manufacture this winter will surpass last season's, but it will not be excessive, and already we hear of several large parcels being contracted for at advanced rates. There has been a good demand for common and inferior wood for local requirements, this branch of our trade being prosperous also.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1889 { Square... 4,224,426 }	6,872,960	{ 1,146,676 Square.	
1889 { Waney... 3,770,782 }		{ 1,914,001 Waney.	
1888 { Square... 1,791,113 }	6,020,000	{ 2,580,591 Square.	
1888 { Waney... 2,029,043 }		{ 1,226,900 Waney.	

**RED PINE.**—Has not been in great demand this year. The supply more than sufficient for all requirements, while the stock on hand is heavier than it has been for some years. The manufacture of new wood for next season will be exceedingly light.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889.....	739,435	397,680	653,918
1888.....	582,305	465,360	464,691

**OAK.**—Opened rather dull last spring, prices declining slightly, but owing to a moderate supply and heavy shipment, rates have been firm, closing at about our quotations. The wintering stock is exceedingly light, and choice wood very difficult to procure.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889.....	1,359,660	1,538,080	596,369
1888.....	1,139,252	1,171,920	824,283

**ELM.**—Both the supply and shipment have been heavy and the stock a light one. The demand has been limited and prices about the same as last season. The manufacture is likely to be moderate this winter, as standing timber is both dear and scarce.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889.....	750,559	791,800	253,735
1888.....	178,388	504,080	241,571

**ASH.**—Has not been in great request, although the shipments exceed last year, a considerable quantity having gone forward on consignment. The quantity wintering is very light.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889.....	250,558	335,360	127,001
1888.....	150,361	217,720	275,193

**BIRCH.**—The supply has been greatly in excess of past years, the shipment heavy, and the stock slightly in excess of the average. The supply this winter is likely to be fully up to the average.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889.....	355,550	479,280	38,784
1888.....	168,562	165,760	1,422

**STAVES.**—We cannot advise any increase in this branch of the trade, which remains in an unsatisfactory state, without any signs of improvement.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889 { Pipe..... 79 }	72	41	
1889 { Puncture..... 125 }	116	122	
1888 { Pipe..... 79 }	55	53	
1888 { Puncture..... 386 }	112	118	

**DEALS—PINE.**—Have been sluggish of sale all the season, especially for the higher qualities. The customs returns show an increased shipment and the stock wintering slightly under last season. The demand in Great Britain is not as brisk as formerly, although the consumption seems to be fair and stocks in some ports still heavy. Our quotations are about the same as last year, except for Michigan higher rates being asked.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889.....	1,389,869	1,397,842	693,197
1888.....	1,546,565	1,189,490	711,170

**DEALS—SPRUCE.**—The demand has been fair throughout the season and prices firm. Both the supply and shipment show a very decided increase in the quantity handled this season, while the stock is an average one.

	Supply	Export	Stock
1889.....	3,684,468	3,584,468	1,159,682
1888.....	2,739,993	2,448,156	1,248,674

**SAWN LUMBER.**—Continues in good request for shipment to Great Britain as well as to the United States. The South American trade is reported dull. We quote Pine at \$15 to \$18 per 1000 feet b. m., and Spruce at \$11 to \$12, according to quality, sizes, etc.

Freights opened at 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d. for Timber, and 65s. for Deals; closed at 26s. 6d. for Timber, and 67s. 6d. for Deals.

The following are the arrivals and tonnage at the Port of Quebec for the five years from 1885 to 1889, inclusive:

Sailing Vessels from Sea:—1885, 502 vessels, 382,826 tons; 1886, 432 vessels, 331,568 tons; 1887, 393 vessels, 295,912 tons; 1888, 318 vessels, 260,301 tons; 1889, 392 vessels, 326,706 tons.

Ocean Steamships:—1885, 242 steamships, 445,522 tons; 1886, 285 steamships, 528,950 tons; 1887, 287 steamships, 541,324 tons; 1888, 244 steamships, 484,449 tons; 1889, 324 steamships, 596,598 tons.

Lower Provinces:—1885, 315 vessels, 131,121 tons; 1886, 348 vessels, 145,189 tons; 1887, 425 vessels, 193,132 tons; 1888, 447 vessels, 231,518 tons; 1889, 371 vessels, 196,269 tons.

Comparative statement of Sailing Vessels cleared at the Port of Quebec, for Sea (Lumber laden), 1887 to 1889, from the opening to the close of navigation: (Compiled by Mr. F. Johnston, Quebec Exchange.)

	Vessels.	Tons.
1877.....	796	670,627
1878.....	476	399,833
1879.....	433	364,628
1880.....	634	555,441
1881.....	459	380,186
1882.....	426	359,925
1883.....	487	416,169
1884.....	366	291,398
1885.....	369	294,750
1886.....	325	250,655
1887.....	271	206,172
1888.....	227	195,928
1889.....	275	240,892

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

NEW WESTMINSTER, Dec. 19th, 1889.

Local business has been slackening off the last month on account of building operations closing up for the season.

Export business is still on the increase, and want of vessels is very much felt amongst lumbermen; but negotiations are now going on for better service next season than ever before. Some mill owners are talking of combining and building a fleet of vessels to do the increased business.

The mill men generally are contemplating putting in a considerable amount of new machinery calculated to increase their output and thereby lessen the expense of turning out lumber.

Public notice has been given that application will be

made at the next session of the local Legislature for an Act to incorporate a company, to be called "The British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Co." for the purpose of acquiring the shares in the capital, and the business, property and privileges, and also of assuming the liabilities of the Royal City Planing Mills Co. (Ltd.), and the Hastings Saw Mill Co. (Ltd.) respectively, and to provide for the said companies to be merged therein and extinguished; and to operate and carry on the business of the two concerns.

The Brunette Saw Mill Co., New Westminster, are rapidly getting their new mill under way, orders for engines and boilers, head blocks, shafting and pulleys, having been given to the Albion Iron Works, Victoria, and the order for edgers, gangs, and more intricate machinery, to the Wm. Hamilton Mfg. Co., of Peterboro', Ont.

As I mentioned in a former letter, saw mill men are just a little tired of the way the Eastern manufacturers have in the past been leaving their orders until the last of the season, when on account of the length of time of arrival after shipment, and the early opening of the season, they should be first attended to. If the Eastern concerns do not give better satisfaction in this respect than they have in the past, the trade will be gone from them never to return, and they will have no one to blame but themselves.

This Brunette order is the first large order given to a B. C. firm for saw mill machinery, and the other mills will look forward to the satisfaction the Albion Iron Works will give with the greatest expectancy to guide them in their future dealings.

The frame-work of the McLaren-Ross Lumber Co.'s mill at New Westminster is finished, and the machinery is now arriving and being got into position for the season of 1890. The burner, 140 feet high and 36 feet diameter, is now up, and looks to the people of this country a mighty concern; and, as an example, two other of the largest mills are now negotiating for similar structures to consume their mill refuse.

The Northern Pacific Lumber Co. are clearing on their plot of ground at the head of Burrard Inlet, preparatory to building a mill this winter to cut about 100,000 feet per day. The company is composed principally of the shareholders of the McLaren-Ross Lumber Co. here and they expect to be running before next fall. Mr. Jas. McLaren, jr., is the manager.

Saw mill business on the Island is brisk, and Mr. Lasee, of Victoria, with other capitalists, are talking of putting up a mill on Shawayan lake. Mr. Gamble, of Port Essington, is also making a number of improvements; and the machinery for the Chictoria Lumber Co. has arrived and is being placed in position.

Mr. Wm. McIntyre has leased the Sutton mill at Cowichan, and intends to rush things next season.

To show the respective merits of timber in America, the Pan-American conference witnessed the following test of four sticks of Puget Sound fir, Michigan pine, and good white oak, with the following result: Pine broke at 1700 lbs; White Oak at 3,500 lbs; and Puget Sound Fir at 4,300 lbs. Engineers say that the straining force and endurance of this fir is greater than that of any other wood. What would the Pan-American conference and engineers say if the Douglas Fir of B.C. had been tested, when it is admitted by the largest dealers in Puget Sound that our fir is far superior to their wood, and to prove it they have to cull their ship loads to compete with British Columbia mill run shipments in foreign markets.

Large consignments of Fir have been shipped lately from 50 to 60 feet in length, for car sills, to Barney & Smith, Dayton, Ohio, and this in the face of an import duty of \$2 per M. Another conclusive proof of the supremacy of our wood.

Fader Bros.' mill, at Vancouver, has closed down for the season.

Leamy & Kyle have assigned for the benefit of their creditors. Bad collections and a desire to close out the partnership seems to be the trouble. Local business alone will not support a mill, unless it has also an export trade, and in a good position for deep water communication.

Valentine & Co., of Revelstoke, have sold out their shingle mill to Robinson & Steen, of Donald, who intend putting in a carriage and planer to increase their output other than shingles. From a recent letter they have orders ahead to cover three months work.

THE LUMBERMAN, I am pleased to say, is very popular here, and can be found in almost every lumber and planing mill in the Province.

FIR.