

cubic feet less. These figures indicate a materially larger export. Of square pine the stock is 200,000 cubic feet less, resulting largely from a decreased supply. In the hardwoods birch and elm are in lighter stock, while oak and ash are heavier by 60,000 and 25,000 cubic feet respectively. Spruce deals are represented by 8,000,000 feet, a light stock, although 1,300,000 feet more than one year ago. The present outlook is for a strong market in the spring.

In Quebec and New Brunswick logging operations are active, although until recently mild weather prevented successful work in Nova Scotia. The log production will not be excessive. Manufacturers are holding firmly to prices, and from the number of inquiries received expect to have no difficulty in disposing of their season's production at good prices. New Brunswick shingles and laths are still scarce.

#### MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The present quiet season in the lumber trade is welcomed by manufacturers, who will thus be enabled to reduce the number of unfilled orders on their books. The building trade throughout the west was so active last year that in the fall there developed a great scarcity of building material, as the result of which many buildings, especially in the city of Winnipeg, remain in an uncompleted state. Weather conditions until the close of the year were favorable for outdoor work, but it was found impossible to secure material. Every effort will be made to resume work early in the spring, and the movement of lumber in anticipation thereof may be expected shortly. Prices of British Columbia lumber continue firm, with no indication of a decline.

#### UNITED STATES.

From point of demand from retailers and consumers the past week has been quiet. Prices on all classes of lumber, however, have been maintained. Buyers are now contracting for the 1903 cut, and in many cases the prices paid are higher than one year ago. Fear of a further advance in the spring has stimulated business and brought into the market buyers who intended to defer purchasing until the spring. The outlook for the new cut is very bright, although it is believed that manufacturers will discourage further advances, on the ground that if prices can be kept normal the consumption will be larger. The box shoo trade is active and there may be an advance in box material in the near future. At Buffalo and Tonawanda there is a great scarcity of 2-inch cuts, which have been marked up to \$55 to \$57 for No. 1, and \$43 to \$45 for No. 2. A price record was recently made in Boston, when upwards of \$100 was paid for wide widths of white pine.

Hardwood lumber is stiffening in price, the scarcity of dry stock being almost without a parallel. Considering the light supply, prices should advance still further. There is no supply of basswood.

The shingle market is a little quiet but stocks are small. In the Saginaw Valley white pine are worth \$3.10 and \$4.15.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

Statistics of stocks on hand on December 31st last have been received as yet only from the port of Glasgow. These clearly explain the high price of first-quality pine deals, the stock of which is but 456 standards, as compared with 713 standards one year ago. Of second-quality pine the stock is but 1,186 standards against 507

standards at same time last year. It is difficult to account for the disparity between the two stocks, and many importers are of the opinion that the lower prices for second-quality pine will stimulate consumption. There is a slightly larger stock of third and fourth quality pine, but red pine is less than one-third that of last year. Quebec spruce deals is in heavier stock, the supply being 5,054 standards, against 3,752 standards one year ago. It is not known how far these figures reflect the stock situation at other British centres, but it will probably be found that London and Liverpool have a lighter stock comparatively. The stock of red pine is so light that there should be a favorable opportunity for early imports in the spring. The stock of oak logs is considerably increased from last year, although prices have advanced and now range about 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. for logs 48 feet long and 12 inches in diameter. Prices of elm are a shade weaker, w., birch shows a firmer tendency. Ash is dull, partly on account of the unsatisfactory condition of the furniture trade. Prices range from 18s. 6d. for 22-inch average up to 23s. for 15-inch.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

W. W. Carter, of Fesserton, Ont., has five camps in operation at Uthoff and will have a large stock of logs for next season.

W. H. Higgins, of Vancouver, B. C., who already has two logging camps up the coast, is opening up a third camp at Malaspina Inlet.

The city of Winnipeg, Man., is asking for tenders up to February 3rd for the supply of from 1,000 to 1,500 cords of cedar paving wood.

In the Tonawanda market better prices are being obtained for spruce than for some time, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 being quoted at \$28, \$23 and \$20 respectively.

The Holland & Graves Lumber Company, of Byng Inlet, Ont., are employing between 800 and 1,000 men in the woods this winter and expect to put in 60,000,000 feet of logs.

S. O. Fisher, of Bay City, who is operating near Blind River, Ont., has thirteen camps going and nearly 25,000,000 feet of logs on the skids ready for hauling. He expects to get in 30,000,000 feet.

The stock of lumber at Cleveland, Ohio, is about the same as at this time last year, although there is a lighter supply of lath and shingles. Stocks are as a rule much greener. Dry lumber is out of the question unless it be kiln-dried.

Timber berths will be offered for sale at the Parliament Buildings, Fredericton, N. B., on January 21st as follows: 16 sq. miles on Cain's river, Thomas W. Flett, applicant; 5 sq. miles on Portage river, Kent county, J. & T. Jardine, applicants; 4½ sq. miles on Cain's river, Thos. W. Flett, applicant.

A scarcity of No. 1 elm staves is reported. The second-class staves for apple barrels were not all used up, so an increased amount of this grade is being put into flour barrels. First-class elm flour barrel staves are worth \$8.50 to \$8.75; basswood heading, 5¼ to 6 cents; hoops, \$11.25 to \$11.50 for 6-foot coiled and \$10.75 to \$11 for 5¼-foot.

In the Chicago market retail prices on pine piece stuff range from \$17.50 to \$18.50 for short narrow stock up to 2x8, and from \$19 to \$21 for 18-foot and upwards. No. 1 common boards are

quoted at \$20.50 to \$21.50, No. 2 at \$18.50 to \$19, and No. 3 at \$16. No. 1 shop and better hold exceedingly firm, thick shop being quoted at \$50 f. o. b. yards.

Under date of December 20th Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company say of the Barbadoes market: "Arrivals have been the 'Dixon Rice' from Weymouth, N. S., with 219,000 feet spruce and white pine; the 'Lillian Blauvelt', from Tusket, N. S., with 225,000 feet white pine and spruce; and the 'Lewanika', from St. John, N. B., with 312,000 feet white pine. These cargoes had all been contracted for and will give sufficient for immediate wants, but further supplies will be needed. We could readily place a cargo of spruce at about \$22 to \$22.50 for shipping and \$18 to \$18.50 for seconds. The only arrival of shingles is 168,000 Laying Cedar by the 'Lewanika', now on offer. There is very little inquiry at this season, but we hear that a cargo of this description is expected."

Although hardwoods advanced fully 25 per cent. in 1902 the tendency, the Mississippi Valley Lumberman says, is still towards better values, and the market is strong, with active trading. White quartered oak brings \$60 to \$65 in car lots, and red sells at \$50. Basswood is a ready sale at \$30 and upward and cottonwood shows a jump of \$10 within a year. There was no let-up in the general inquiry for all kinds of hardwoods the past few days and the point has been raised as to how large consumers are to get along, especially those who have no surplus stock to run for the next five months. Buyers are in the market right along and the trade is above the average for the opening of the year. There are no new features in any wood. All are having a good sale and the trade is gradually becoming accustomed to a higher level of values.

#### DOORS AND MOULDINGS.

A large buyer of Canadian white pine doors and mouldings is open to contract with a mill for their entire output of No. 3 and 4 qualities of doors and all their mouldings during 1902. Write in first instance to "Empire," CANADA LUMBERMAN.

The Prairie Lumber Company have purchased the lumber businesses of H. J. Jickling at Carman, Man., William Sellers at Holmfild, Man., John McGuire at Moosomin, N. W. T., and Wiebe & Friesen at Winkler, Man.

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#### THE OTTAWA VALLEY LOG PRODUCTION.

The estimated output of logs for 1902-1903 is the largest on record. A reliable record shows that on the Spanish, Nipissing and Ottawa rivers, including the Lower Ottawa, probably 9,500,000 logs will be taken out and about 500,000 pieces of cedar, including ties and poles.

The total quantity of square timber and waney timber for export from Quebec next summer will reach 2,500,000 cubic feet.

Reports from the limits show that the work is progressing satisfactorily, although a scarcity of teams is reported from some districts. Trouble was experienced up to a week ago getting supplies in at certain points on the Upper Ottawa, as the ice was either absent entirely or insecure. Supplies had to be taken across by ferry at a cost five times increased over normal conditions. The intense cold of the past few days has, however, remedied this trouble.

All the deals of the cut of 1903 have been sold, and the ten per cent. advance over last year's prices mentioned on the first sales made early in the Fall has been maintained. A reference made in a recent letter to a similarity in prices between the two years referred to small lots of lumber picked up for the local or the American markets.

Inquiry at the local railway offices goes to show that lumber shipments are very slow at present. Car shortage and the lull natural to the turn of the year are held responsible for this. There is practically no manufactured lumber on the market.

OTTAWA, January 12th, 1903.

The Sprague Lumber Company, Limited, and the John Arbuthnot Lumber Company, Limited, Winnipeg, Man., are applying for incorporation.

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