

Market Reports.

OFFICE OF THE CANADA LUMBERMAN,
PETERBOROUGH, May 28, 1881.

From the full reports which we give this week from all parts of the country, it will be seen that the American market is decidedly firm and that "good and dry" lumber is being picked up wherever it is to be found. The reports from the English market are not, however, so promising, although our private advices lead us to believe that good timber will bring about the same prices in Quebec this year as last.

Toronto.

From Our Own Correspondent.

TORONTO, May 25th, 1881.—During the last two weeks shipments of lumber from this port has been exceedingly meagre compared with what might have been done could cars have been secured to convey the lumber awaiting shipment at the different points on the Northern, North Simcoe and Hamilton and North Western railways. The principal cause of the scarcity of lumber flats arises from the fact, that a large number of cars are being used in construction, preparatory to a change of gauge on the above roads, and after that has been completed there is no doubt but lumber will come forward more rapidly. There is no upward move in prices on lumber for shipment to record, but previous quotations remain firm, and freights seem to have now settled down at \$1.25 per M to Oswego, and \$2.00 per M for timber, although some charters have been effected at \$1.20 per M.

The local market is fairly brisk, now that the question of wages has been settled, building has been vigorously resumed, and yard-men look forward to a busy summer, and as the mill-men are now demanding acceptance of sight drafts on account of their shipments, it may be fairly assumed that retailers will also have to curtail credits, and may thereby avoid making many of the bad debts so frequently made during past years, therefore the outlook on the whole for retail dealers are bright. There is also another reason why yard-men may look forward to a brisker trade. During the last five or six years wholesale men hurt the yard trade by bringing down cars of lumber ahead of orders, and then when the cars arrived, drummed the city for purchasers, knowing that demurrage for detention of cars would not be enforced, so that virtually the R.R. yards were made retail yards of to the loss of those who were paying rents, taxes, and insurance on yard property. This will now become a thing of the past. Unload quick has become the order of the day, and retailers who have borne the heat and burden of the last few years of hard times, will naturally rejoice somewhat at this additional feather in their hats.

Prices at the yards rule as follows:—

Scantling and joist, up to 14 ft.	\$11 00
" " " 18 ft.	11 50
" " " 20 ft.	12 00
" " " 22 to 24 ft.	13 00
" " " 26 ft.	14 00
" " " 30 ft.	15 00
" " " 36 ft.	17 00
Mill cut boards.	8 50
Shipping cut boards.	10 00
Stocks firm at	\$11 00
Dressing stocks.	14 00
Dressed sheathing and flooring, 1 inch.	20 00
" " " 1 1/2 inch.	24 00
Dressed slating.	17 00
XXX sawn shingles, 1/2 M.	2 50
Lath.	1 00

Car load prices rule \$1.50 per M below retailers rates on rail here, and shingles firm at \$2.25, and lath \$1.30.

Boston.

The general features of the market remain substantially as last week, with a good demand and prices very firm. Local yards are continuing the increased call which was noted last week, and dealers report a number of larger orders at the same time. Both eastern and western pine are selling well. Hardwoods remain very scarce and hard to buy except at full rates. The amount of building going on is very large, and a lively call is anticipated during the month of June. Prices generally remain as before quoted. — *Boston Journal of Commerce.*

CANADA PINE.

Selects, dressed	348 00	40 50
Shedding, dressed, 1st	40 00	40 50
" " " 2nd	33 00	40 50
Dressed shingles	27 00	40 50
Dressed lath	18 00	40 50
Shedding, 1st quality	42 00	40 50
" " 2nd	34 00	40 50

Chicago.

CHICAGO, May 18, 1881.—The cargo market is not so strong as it has been. Piece stuff has weakened noticeably since our last report, standard cargoes being sold to-day as low as \$9.50 and \$9.75, and inferior ones at \$9.25. Yesterday a load of Manitowish stuff was placed at \$10, but this figure, so far as we can ascertain, was not reached in to-day's transactions. Medium mill run is also slightly weaker, though the range given covers the market. Common inch has not fallen off materially. Standard shingles have not been sold above \$2.40 for some days, and that figure is now put down as the ruling price. Extra A shingles bring \$2.50 and \$2.60. It will be observed that there has been a slight decline in these, which is no doubt due to the determination of the buyers that they would not attempt to handle any considerable quantity of them at the figures first made. It is a question whether they will buy much more freely now, though sellers hope to get along without further concessions. Lath are steady at \$1.75, none having been sold at any higher prices.

The stock of lumber for sale during the week was the largest that has been offered this season. Sunday and Monday a large fleet came in, and at the close of business to-day there was still some of it at the dock unsold. There are plenty of buyers around, or to put it a trifle more accurately, perhaps, plenty of people who would be buyers if they could get the sellers to come to their terms. The lumber arriving for sale has certainly not moved with as much celerity as would be desirable from the manufacturers' point of view, though the transactions seem to cover the larger part of each day's supply. Good inch lumber is said to be in demand, and the strongest thing on the market. Consignments of anything ranging from number one Muskegon stock upwards can be placed, it is said, without difficulty, and at about asking prices. One operator on the market reports a sale of 6,000,000 feet of lumber from number one logs at figures netting him fully \$1 more than the same kind of lumber brought last year.

Indications of the course of the market for the next week or two are not very plenty. The bear element is hopeful because of what it has already done, and the bull side is cheered up by the reflection that its enemies have not accomplished as much as they expected to. Between the two it is hard to decide which has most reason to hope or fear. One commission man in speaking of the outlook expressed the belief that they would not be able to sustain present prices without some improvement in the demand; that is, of course, if the lumber continues coming in as rapidly as it has in the last few days. The *Lumberman* does not pretend to be able to predict the result, and it believes that is something no one can do now. What piece stuff and boards will sell for later on in the season, is emphatically one of the problems of the future.

While lumber is weakening, the prices exacted by the vessel men for bringing it from the points of manufacture are getting firmer, and even advancing somewhat. The rate from Manitowish is reported at \$2.25; from Ludington, \$2; White Lake, \$1.87; Muskegon, \$1.75; Grand Haven and Spring Lake, \$1.75; Menominee and Cedar river, \$2.25, and Oconto \$2.50. Cedar post charters range from eight to nine cents for Green Bay and west shore ports, the posts to be delivered on the rail. These figures show a considerable advance over the prices ruling at the opening of navigation, and go to show that vessel owners, for whom the season must necessarily be a short one, propose to make it as profitable as they can.

Receipts and shipments of lumber and shingles for the week ending May 17:—

Receipts.	Shipments.
Lumber, Shingles.	Lumber, Shingles.
1881.....56,500,000 28,540,000	11,822,000 2,770,000
1880.....42,073,000 20,243,000	12,763,000 1,333,000

Receipts and shipments of lumber and shingles from January 1st to and including May 17th:—

Receipts.	Shipments.
Lumber, Shingles.	Lumber, Shingles.
1881.....128,842,000 102,232,000	191,425,450 34,764,000
1880.....221,191,000 119,627,000	121,569,000 33,773,000

On the whole, orders are not coming in quite as freely as they did two weeks ago. Every man in the country who has bought is clamoring

for the delivery of his purchase, many of them, seemingly, not understanding that an unmountable barrier has stood in the way. The slight falling off in orders in some directions is due, no doubt, to the fact that most of the lumber that is bought now is wanted for immediate use, and, it being known that prompt shipments could not be made from this market, purchases have been made at points where no railway difficulties have existed.

We learn of one cut list that has been sent out, but most of the dealers profess to believe that lumber is worth what the members of the Exchange say it should be sold for, and make no concessions. The lumbermen, it will be remembered, hold another meeting on Saturday, and probably they will decide then whether the list as it now stands can be maintained.

Sash, door and blind manufacturers report free orders from all points in the country within their reach, which is the best possible indication that building is general.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

STOCK ON HAND MAY 1.

	1881.	1880.	1879.
Lumber.....	228,250,041	228,183,574	191,180,957
Shingles.....	13,679,545	115,116,000	111,350,000
Lath.....	21,038,750	23,730,300	19,156,622
Pickets.....	2,093,844	670,250	390,905
Cedar posts.....	5,000,000	7,527	118,123
Hardwood.....	11,275,000		

COMMON BOARDS—ROUGH.

	Dry.
Common boards, 12 in.	\$15 60
10 and 20 ft.	14 00
12, 14, 16 and 18 ft.	13 50
Culls, all lengths.	11 50
1 1/2 and 1 3/4 com.	13 50

TIMBER AND DIMENSION—DRY.

Small timber, 18 ft. and under.	\$12 00
12, 14, 16 and 18 ft. joist	13 00
2x4, 10 and 20 ft.	13 00
2x4, 18 ft.	13 00
20 ft.	14 00
22 ft.	17 00
24 ft.	17 00
26 ft.	20 00
28 ft.	20 00
30 ft.	20 00
2 in. cull plank, all widths.	9 00
2x4 culls, all lengths.	9 50

Albany.

The receipts of pine lumber, wintered over on the canal, and of new have been moderate; they have been turned in on sales made ahead, thus leaving the market temporarily bare, and as a consequence quiet. Prices are steadily maintained with a good demand, principally from New York, Long Island and New Jersey, and is largely for uppers—for which, also, there is some local speculative demand—on a market which for that grade is certainly the cheapest of any point. The Saginaw and Chicago markets are notably held very high on the upper grades with perfect confidence on the part of the trade that present prices will be maintained. The new cut at Saginaw continues to be sold largely ahead and at full prices, especially on upper grades.

From Canada, the advices are firm and active markets; logs are arriving freely, and there is not any further apprehension of shortage on that account.

Hard woods are in continued good demand and unchanged in price.

Coarse lumber is arriving freely by canal, and has been largely absorbed by sales made some time ahead; new orders continue to come forward and there appears to be no let up to the demand, notwithstanding the deliveries from the Champlain are far ahead of those of any previous season; of course no accumulation of stock is looked for; prices are firmly held.

The exports of lumber from New York are very free; those for April were among the largest ever known, reaching nearly 10,000,000 feet; for the first four months the exports were 26,178,000 feet against 24,093,000 feet for the corresponding four months of 1880.

The receipts by canal at tide-water from the opening of navigation in 1881 (May 17th) and the opening in 1880 (April 20th) were:—

Boards and Shingles, A. Timber, Staves, Scantling, ft.	1881.	1880.
	1,571,000	1,290,000
	6,951,900	312
		38,000
		2,824,000

Lake Ontario freights to Oswego, \$1.00 from Port Hope; \$1.25 from Toronto; from Oswego to Albany, \$1.70.—*Albany Argus.*

If you suffer from any chronic disease arising from Impure Blood, Stagnant Liver, disordered Kidneys or Inactivity of the bowels; if your Nervous System is debilitated from whatever cause arising, do not despair, but procure a trial bottle of Bland's Blood Purifier; it will only cost 10 cents. Large Bottles \$1.00. For sale by all medicine dealers.

Burlington, Vt.

Prices are firm at quotations. Assortments are quite broken, but will soon be replenished as the canal is now open. The first tow of the season arrived May 9th. The projected work throughout New England is reported to be very large, and we anticipate a good summer and fall trade. So far we cannot report as heavy a trade this season as last, for the corresponding time. Our planing-mills, box and door manufacturers are having a large trade, some of the box shops running 12 hours per day. The Whitehall canal opened, May 12th.

PINE.

1x10 as run, box out.	\$20 00	22 00
select.	47 00	49 00
1st shelling.	35 00	37 00
2nd quality.	31 00	32 00
pickings.	31 00	32 00
shippers.	22 00	23 00
box.	16 00	17 00
1x12 as run, box out.	25 00	26 00
select.	48 00	49 00
1st shelling.	37 00	38 00
2nd quality.	33 00	34 00
pickings.	31 00	32 00
shippers.	23 00	24 00
box.	16 00	17 00
1x14 as run, box out.	30 00	31 00
select.	50 00	51 00
1 inch siding, as run, box out.	23 00	24 00
1-inch select.	40 00	
1st shelling.	32 00	33 00
2nd quality.	31 00	32 00
pickings.	30 00	31 00
shippers.	21 00	22 00
box.	14 00	15 00
1 1/2 inch siding as run, box out.	30 00	31 00
select.	16 00	17 00
1 1/2 inch as run, box out.	37 00	38 00
select.	16 00	17 00
2-inch as run, box out.	38 00	39 00
select.	16 00	17 00
1-inch 1st quality sheathing, 1/2.	38 00	39 00
2nd quality.	31 00	32 00
3rd quality.	22 00	23 00
sap clear.	30 00	31 00
2-inch 1st quality, worked 1/2.	27 00	28 00
2nd quality.	20 00	21 00
3rd quality.	13 00	14 00

All of the above are in 12 to 16 foot lengths.

SPRUE—DRESSED.

Quebec spruce, clear.	\$24 00	25 00
" " No. 1.	17 00	18 00
" " No. 2.	12 00	

SHINGLES AND LATH.

Extra cedar shingles.	\$3 50	3 75
XX.	2 50	
mixed.	2 40	2 50
extra sawed pine.	4 25	
clear.	3 25	
Lath, pine, per 1,000 pieces.	1 70	1 80

Oswego, N.Y.

No change in quotations. The demand is good, but the assortment is poor. All the good lumber is out of market. Buyers have difficulty in getting the various kinds needed, and country dealers have run stocks down low. The volume of business is much larger than last year. Dealers are paying up well, many of them taking the advantage of allowance for cash who heretofore have taken the full time allowed. The general feeling among dealers is that prices for the present will be maintained. All the old cut is now in second hands. The yards are rapidly filling up, and shipments to tide water are brisk. Canal freights are firm at \$2.65 to New York. Lake freights, \$5 from Saginaw and Cheboygan.

Quotations are as follows:—

Three uppers.	\$12 00	14 00
Pickets.	32 00	35 00
Fine, common.	20 00	25 00
Common.	14 00	16 00
Culls.	12 00	14 00
Mill run lath.	17 00	22 00
Sidings, selected, 1 inch.	32 00	31 00
" " 1 1/2 inch.	30 00	28 00
Mill run, 1x10, 13 to 16 ft.	17 00	21 00
select.	20 00	25 00
shippers.	15 00	16 00
Mill run, 1 and 1 1/2 inch strips.	16 00	20 00
Culls, selected.	22 00	20 00
Culls.	12 00	14 00
1x10 selected for claspboards.	24 00	35 00
Shingles, XXX, 18 inch, pine.	3 75	4 00
XXX, 18 inch, cedar.	3 00	3 15
Lath.	1 40	1 60

Buffalo.

If lake freights should decline materially we think lumber will go lower, but not to remain very long. Trade is not quite as active as it was a few weeks ago, which is accounted for by the fact that the farmers are very busy getting in their spring crops. A busy season is however looked for.

We quote cargo lots:

Uppers.	\$35 00	40 00
Common.	16 00	19 00
Culls.	11 00	12 00
Dressing stocks.	18 00	20 00
Dressing sidings.	17 00	19 00

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