

wood about \$1 higher. Birch, which is a good seller, is worth from \$21 to \$22.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Square timber is said to be showing some weakness, although we have been unable to learn of any sales at prices much below those we are quoting. Owing to the high cost of production, buyers who are unable to obtain a fair price will hold their timber until next year. There is a fairly active demand for waney timber. The spruce lumber market shows no signs of recovery. Some of the manufacturers are considering the advisability of storing their logs until the price improves, as the present selling figures will not cover the cost of production. Spruce clapboards have held up remarkably well; 4-foot boards are bringing \$42 to \$43 for Boston delivery, while the 6-foot boards are quoted at \$56, the latter being a decline of about \$4 as compared with the closing figures of last season. Shingle prices are a trifle easier, Extras for Boston delivery selling at \$3.30 to \$3.35; Clears, \$2.80 to \$2.85, and Second Clears, 2.25 to \$2.35. Stocks at the mills, however, are light, and it will only require a moderate increase in demand to get back to the \$3.50 basis for extras.

MANITOWA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Lumber manufacturers have no complaint to make in respect to the volume of consumption throughout the North-West. Building operations are absorbing a very large quantity of lumber. The permits issued this year in the city of Winnipeg represent a valuation of nearly \$4,000,000, and in Vancouver there have been over 450 houses erected since the first of the year. So much American lumber is being dumped on the Canadian market, however, that the benefit of this activity is lost to the Canadian manufacturer. The outlook in British Columbia is quite gloomy, the president of the British Columbia Loggers' Association having announced that all logging camps in the province would soon be shut down indefinitely, which means that several thousand men will be thrown out of employment.

UNITED STATES.

The lumber market of the United States is about stationary and seems, in a measure, to be waiting on the outcome of the crops, which at the present time give promise of an abundant yield. All box grades of pine are in good demand and dry stocks are running low. Some of the eastern markets report an increased demand, while from other districts a falling off in sales is announced. The lower grades are showing more strength and activity than the higher grades. The action of the price list committee of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association has created a stronger

feeling of confidence in the situation. After thoroughly considering conditions, it was considered unwise to make material changes in the price list, but several advances were decided upon, including the following: 12-inch No. 1 boards and products, 13 in. and wider, \$2; 12-inch No. 1 boards, 10, 14 and 16 feet, 50 cents; 12 feet, \$1.50; 18 and 20 feet, \$1; 10-inch No. 1 boards, 10 feet, 50 cents; 12 to 20 feet, \$1.50; 8-inch No. 1 boards, 12 and 14 feet, 50 cents; 6-inch No. 1 facing, 6 feet, \$1; 12 to 20 feet, 50 cents. Norway siding and flooring were reduced by from 50 cents to \$2, and 8, 10 and 12 inch D select, \$2.

There is not a heavy movement of hardwoods, and the demand is largely for firsts and seconds and culls, leaving common somewhat neglected. Plain sawed oak is firm and in good demand. Dry birch stocks are about cleared out, giving a firmness to that lumber.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The imports of sawn lumber into the United Kingdom during the first five months of this year were 1,031,137 loads, as against 1,177,266 loads for the corresponding period of 1903. As the stocks held at the leading ports are lighter than at the close of last year, it would seem that the consumption has been greater than the import. This is not likely to continue throughout the summer months, as receipts will be more liberal. There has been little change for the better in the lumber situation. Many buyers would like to contract for their supplies, but they fear that after they have placed their orders shippers might make a further cut in prices in order to precipitate sales. This is hardly expected, but there is sufficient doubt regarding the matter to induce a continuance of the non-committal policy. The price of white pine deals is still so high as to restrict the consumption, while spruce deals have so many competitors that the buyer can always obtain his requirements from one source if not from another. The demand for square pine is slow, while waney is a little more active.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The barque Katie F. Troop is loading lumber at Musquash, N. B., for Beunos Ayres.

Pine lumber for the town of Toronto Junction, Ont., will be supplied by A. H. Clemmer, and cedar by W. P. Hartney.

The Dominion Government is asking for tenders up to July 8th for the construction of deep water wharves at Dalhousie and Campbellton, N. B.

Spruce lath by car are quoted at Boston at \$3.15 to \$3.25 for 1 1/2 in., and \$3.25 to \$3.35 for 1 3/4 in., with the cargo price on standard 1 1/2 inch running from \$3 to \$3.05.

The first raft descending the Ottawa river from above Bryson, Que., passed over the Calumet slides on June 14th. It belonged to Fraser & Company and was taken out on the Deep River.

It is rumoured that Thomas Mackie, M. P., of Pembroke, Ont., has sold the timber limits in the upper Ottawa district which he purchased at the Ontario Government sale in December last, making a considerable profit.

The unmarked logs in the Restigouche boom were sold at auction at Campbellton, N. B., last week, the merchantable spruce and pine bringing \$8.02, battens \$6.25, and cedar \$6.00. The Wm. Richards Company were the purchasers.

TO HOLDERS OF BIRCH LIMITS.

Can you cut birch into Squares, &c. We can also take birch cut on the sweep with a jigger or small band saw. Large quantities required. Write in first instance to "Finance," c/o CANADA LUMBERMAN.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

St. John, N. B., June 15th, 1904.—The outlook for Canadian lumber in the United Kingdom is not as encouraging as was the case at this time last month. Dealers are not showing any anxiety to buy or make contracts and there is an increasing eagerness to sell on the part of the manufacturers here and in all parts of the province. Those who have contracts to fill that were left over from last year are filling them now, and such lots as these comprise the greater part of the shipments of the last two months.

But in spite of these facts the manufacturers in this section are not at all discouraged. The opening of the season found their wharves entirely bare and they are practically only beginning to saw. They feel confident that the present depression is merely a reaction from the stimulus of trade last year and that, when some of the surplus has been worked off the markets in the U. K., a sharp recovery will take place. If, however, this view of the situation is not borne out, and the market should become still weaker, it is almost certain that they will close down their plants and cease operations entirely, as it will unquestionably be better policy for them to hold their logs until next year than to manufacture at a loss. If this should happen it will mean that there will be practically no logging done in this section of the country next winter. The impression seems to have got

abroad that the stocks of logs in the St. John river were obtained at a low figure. This is not the case. The contracts under which most of these logs were got

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TELEGRAPH POLES WANTED

We buy all lengths. Write us for prices and you will see that by cutting your Cedar into Poles it will net you more than you can get out of it in any other way.

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