

BOSTON NOTES.

The Boston correspondent of the *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—As to the local trade, it seems but a repetition of previous letters, to one who watches the market carefully. However, it is evident that trade is improving. This assertion may not apply as particularly to city trade as to suburban business. A great deal of building is now under way in many of the towns and cities within a radius of 50 miles of Boston. To be sure, a certain portion of the supply is forwarded from here, but a large portion, although sold by our wholesale men, is shipped direct.

The amount of lumber now to be found at the different railroads is not as large as the corresponding month last year, and the proportion of this that is desirable lumber is quite small. As usual, this stock is largely hardwood—a few cars of pine, but a very poor assortment. Now and then a person will run across a car of good lumber, but it is not apt to remain long; for, as I have frequently written, good lots sell quite readily in any state of trade. As to prices, I observe no material change. Buyers, as a rule, would try and make it out that they were being offered lots at reduced figures, while the sellers are very firm in their prices, and talk confidently of an early advance on certain grades. I find it is the opinion of certain dealers, whom I believe to be good judges, that dry white pine, the upper grades, will advance slightly, and hold firm until the new cut is a shipping order. Certainly, dry stocks are very scarce at the West, and those of our dealers who have control of such stocks are not liable to dispose of them foolishly.

Yellow pine is holding very firm, and our wholesalers are doing a good business in hardwoods. Ash is selling fairly, and at present prices at which it is held at the mills, it must surely advance. The present supply is quite narrow. There is a good sale for ash that will average 12 to 14 inches, but not many such lots are offered. Oak, cherry and poplar are each having a good sale. There is no noticeable scarcity of either of these. Walnut is selling very fairly, although almost entirely to the manufacturing trade. I hear of sales as low as \$80, from that to \$90, and for heavy walnut up to \$100. Culls sell from \$35 to \$40; a good grade of dry, usually at the latter figure, although the sale of this grade is not nearly as large as it was a few years since, manufacturers preferring better lumber at a higher price. All things considered, the dealers unanimously report trade as very satisfactory for the season, and with a probable scarcity of good lumber, and indications of a heavy trade, the prospects are that prices will remain firm, and dealers will thus have a firm basis on which to reckon their profits.

The spruce men have made a move, and held a meeting recently at Portland, Me., agreeing to advance prices \$1 per thousand. If they hold to their agreement, it will undoubtedly help the trade, as past prices have certainly paid little, if any, profit to the producers, and as large risks are taken by many of the manufacturers it is not unreasonable that they should receive a better profit on their investments, than they have obtained the past two or three years.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The *Gazette* of April 19th says:—An improved local demand has been experienced at the yards for both soft and hard woods at steady prices, although some kinds of hard have a stiffening tendency. A fair enquiry continues on American account, but we do not hear of important transactions. Pine, ash, walnut and cherry are the principal kinds inquired for. Dealers look forward to a good trade with Winnipeg, notwithstanding the fact that shipments of logs and sawn lumber are finding their way thither from Minnesota. Laths in this market are firm at the late advance. It is too early to say much about the shipment of deals to Great Britain or of lumber to South America, although we hear steamer room for deals has been offered at 60s. Liverpool.

The *Witness* of April 19, says:—The lumbering operations of the past winter have been the most extensive, probably, in the history of the Dominion, and the high water which prevails,

and is likely to prevail, in all the rivers and streams throughout the lumber regions will enable the lumbermen to forward their logs and timber to where it can be marketed in good time. Although there is every prospect of an unusually large supply, prices are firm and have advanced in some cases, owing to the active demand from American markets, which is likely to continue throughout the season. There is also a very large local demand throughout the country, as the farmers, who have had several good seasons in succession, are about making more or less extensive improvements on their homesteads, especially in the construction of larger and more convenient barns for storing their produce and housing their live stock. There is a fair amount of new buildings in prospect here this season, and lumber dealers are expecting a profitable trade. The shipments of lumber to South America are likely to be large, but it is probable that the demand from Britain will be moderate. The following are the retail prices of lumber per 1,000 feet in the yards in this city—Pine—clear lumber, \$35 to \$45; 1st quality, \$30 to \$35; 2nd quality, \$22 to \$25; 3rd quality, \$14 to \$16; culls, \$10 to 12. Long pine lumber for building purpose, \$20 to \$25 per M; long hemlock lumber for building purposes, \$16 to \$18 do; spruce lumber, \$10 to \$12 do; hemlock lumber, \$9 to \$10 do; shingles, \$2 to \$3.50 per M.; laths, \$2.25 to \$2.50 do.

The price of laths is now double the amount they were two years ago. Dressed lumber.—Common boards, \$16 to \$18 per M.; one and a quarter inch roofing, \$16 to \$18 do; 1 1/2 inch flooring, \$20 to \$22 do.; 1 1/2 inch flooring, \$24 to \$30 do.; 2 inch flooring, \$30 to \$35 do. Doors, windows, blinds, &c.—Doors, 7 ft. by 3ft., 2 inches thick, with flush moulding, \$3.50; the same size with raised mouldings \$3.90; doors 6 ft. 8 in. by 2 ft. 8 in.; 1 1/2 inches thick, \$2.50; doors 6 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 6 in., 1 1/2 inches thick, \$2.50.

French windows, six lights, size of glass 14 by 18 inches, \$2.50; blinds for the above size, \$2.85; French windows, six lights, size of glass 14 by 16 inches, \$2.35; blinds for same, \$2.60; French windows, six lights, glass 12 by 14 inches, \$2.10; blinds for same, \$2.25; English windows, twelve lights, size of glass 10 by 12 inches, \$2.30; blinds for same \$2.50; English windows, twelve lights, glass 12 by 18 inches, \$3; blinds for same, \$3.65; sashes, twelve lights, glass 10 by 12 inches, 90c.; do. glass 12 by 18 inches, \$1.25.

Hardwood lumber.—There is good local demand for most kinds of hardwood and the prices are firm, but generally about the same rate as last season. The following are the prices, per 1,000 feet:—Black walnut, \$60 to \$100; cherry, \$60 to \$80; oak and hickory, \$50 to \$55; butternut, \$35 to \$40; maple and rock elm, \$30 to \$35; birch and beech, \$25 to \$30; ash, \$15 to \$25; elm, \$16 to \$18; basswood, \$12 to \$16.

QUEBEC NOTES.

Messrs. D & J Maguire, of this city, have contracted for a delivery at the River Platte the coming season of about five million feet of spruce lumber, all of which will be shipped from Montreal and Three Rivers. The firm also intend shipping several cargoes of red pine deals and staves to the Cape of Good Hope.

The high water this spring is likely to assist lumbermen very materially in getting out their logs. Mr. S. B. Charlson, who has some 50,000 logs cut in the woods at Windsor Mills, received a telegram on Monday, April 13th, informing him that the river was overflowing its banks and telling him to bring up men. He accordingly left Quebec at once, taking up some forty men with him for the drive.

Timber dealers have made a number of contracts with tug owners at Quebec for towing their rafts to market this season. The rates are reported as about the same as usual.

A Montreal letter says:—We have had very few visits from Quebec timber merchants so far, which is rather an unfavorable indication, however, as there are considerable heavy stocks ahead in Quebec, sufficient to keep them going until the new timber reaches market, not likely before the middle of July. It is possible that their absence does not signify a dull season, although no sales of timber on the snow are reported. In sawed lumber there is very little

being done. If any contracts for the season's sawing have been made, neither the names of the parties contracting, nor terms, have transpired. Although there seems to be a brisk demand for saw logs, one gentleman sold all he had made, some 25,000 pieces, the other evening, and had scarcely concluded the sale when another mill man approached him with a view to buying, and would probably have given a higher figure.

DAKOTA BUSINESS.

The wood-working interests of Dakota and other northwestern states and territories are being developed in a very satisfactory if not rapid manner. A Minneapolis paper of recent date says:—"The manufacturer of cheap furniture in available towns in North Dakota has a profitable occupation before him. There is an abundance of room for men of capital who are willing to come and engage in this business. This class of work has been begun in some places in a small way, and will doubtless grow enormously in the near future. But Grand Forks, Fargo, Valley City, Jamestown, Bismarck and Mandan offer excellent advantages to the manufacturer also. A freight car load of furniture from the nearest available point costs for freight alone about \$85 to Fargo or Grand Forks, and of course a greater sum to places further along the line. The cost of the freight on a carload of lumber from Minnesota to Fargo would be about \$25. Grand Forks can obtain it at a less cost than this. It is estimated by competent authorities that one carload of lumber can be made up into at least three carloads of furniture. So here the North Dakota manufacturer has a bonus to start with of \$25 minus \$25 that is \$500 on three carloads of furniture. In other words he is 'protected' to the extent of over \$75 a carload in Fargo and Grand Forks and to a greater extent the further west he gets. The cost of fuel in this part of the country for running machinery is not much in excess of what it is in the towns of Ohio or Michigan. Anyhow, in most wood-working establishments the waste will run the engine. Sash, door and blind makers, too, will find an abundance of work awaiting them in North Dakota. Thousands and tens of thousands of houses are going to be built within the next twelve months or so, and every house must have doors, while vast numbers of them will require sashes and blinds also. Where are these articles to be obtained? The supply of North Dakota sash, door and blind mills can not possibly keep pace with the demand. The establishment of new mills will result in profitable work for employers and men and convenience to builders of houses."—*The Wood-Worker.*

NIPISSING TIMBER.

A correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette* writes as follows:—"The first shipment of square timber from Nipissing, went down the line to Mattawa on the 3rd of April. It was taken out by Mr. Moore. I understand, and was very nice timber. They say Mr. Moore has a splendid limit or limits in this Nipissing country, and no doubt his timber will be No. 1, as he employs none but first-class workmen,

and he experiences no difficulty in getting such men, as he is held in high esteem by all his employees for the straightforward and manly way he does his business. Messrs. Barnet & Mackie are also sending down square timber by this line. They are old and experienced lumbermen too, and as the place from which they are taking their timber has never been cut over before this season, they must no doubt have some very fine square timber. There are a number of other firms operating in the same vicinity, some of them cutting logs, but nearly all making more or less square timber. One thing is to be noticed that the governments of both the provinces of Quebec and Ontario seem slow to move in, and that is the proper protection of the forests from fire by trappers and settlers. In fact, the only way that this can be remedied is by appointing capable men to the work with power to cause at any time the arrest of any person or persons whom they have reasonable cause to suspect to be the cause of any unnecessary damaging fire.

There is a steamboat on Lake Nipissing which is a great convenience to the lumbermen. The south side of the lake is well settled, in fact nearly all the available good land is taken up. On the north side the land is comparatively worthless in an agricultural point of view. There are a number of Indians still on the north side of the lake, but as is usual where the white man advances the red man recedes, and as many are considerably off color it is quite evident they have mixed with the white race years ago.

It is rumored that there are several lumbermen contemplating the erecting of saw mills. No doubt the C. P. R. Company will find it to be to their interest to be as liberal as possible in freight rates and encourage this trade. Trains on the Canadian Pacific are now running as far west as Sturgeon River, and the road is well under construction for some distance beyond. It is being rapidly built. There is a superior class of workmen on this part of the line. The most of them are shantymen and farmers' sons—a very respectable class. There are scarcely any of the old hardened navvies to be met with here. They have been tried, but were evidently a failure, and their disappearance from here nobody regrets. Teams are now to be seen daily returning home after a hard winter's work. Those teams that work in the lumber woods are chiefly owned by farmers, who, not having sufficient work to employ them at home, set off to the lumber woods in the early part of the season. They are paid this season from \$1.50 to \$2 per diem and found in board. The wolves are very numerous. The carcasses of small deer, or what remains of them, are frequently to be met with that have been hunted down and killed. In my next letter I will give you a description of the country above Pembroke, westward, &c.

The *Toronto Mail* of April 20, says:—Burton Brothers are making extensive preparations for rafting square timber down to Montreal. Fourteen car-loads were run into the water between piers 3 and 4 at the Northern wharf yesterday. About the same number were floated on Tuesday, and it is likely that the first raft will slip as soon as the way is clear down the canal.

LIVERPOOL STOCKS.

We take from the *Timber Trades Journal* the following Comparative Table showing Stock of Timber and Deals in Liverpool on March 31st, 1882 and 1883, and also the Consumption for the month of March, 1882 and 1883:—

	Stock, Mar. 31st, 1883.	Stock, Mar. 31st, 1882.	Consumption for the month of Mar. 1882.	Consumption for the month of Mar.
Quebec Square Pine.....	161,000 ft.	119,000 ft.	65,000 ft.	50,000 ft.
" Waney Board.....	142,000 "	219,000 "	4,000 "	4,000 "
St. John Pine.....	18,000 "	10,000 "	11,000 "	6,500 "
Other Ports Pine.....	42,000 "	20,000 "	4,000 "	4,000 "
Red Pine.....	41,000 "	27,000 "	14,000 "	— "
Pitch Pine, hewn.....	645,000 "	635,000 "	64,000 "	201,000 "
" Sawn.....	450,000 "	410,000 "	62,000 "	180,000 "
Planks.....	60,000 "	60,000 "	11,000 "	60,000 "
Dantzig, &c., Fir.....	25,000 "	24,000 "	9,000 "	4,000 "
Sweden and Norway Fir.....	19,000 "	3,000 "	2,000 "	2,000 "
Oak, Canadian.....	201,000 "	264,000 "	29,000 "	30,000 "
" Baltic.....	168,000 "	53,000 "	37,000 "	37,000 "
" ".....	21,000 "	60,000 "	4,000 "	— "
Elm.....	29,000 "	45,000 "	0,000 "	5,000 "
Ash.....	2,000 "	14,000 "	2,000 "	1,000 "
Birch.....	60,000 "	81,000 "	21,000 "	37,000 "
East India Teak.....	40,000 "	96,000 "	20,000 "	27,000 "
Greenheart.....	132,000 "	21,000 "	4,000 "	10,000 "
N. B. & N. S. Spruce Deals.....	12,614 stds.	10,404 stds.	3,044 stds.	3,650 stds.
" Pine.....	1,145 "	400 "	— "	— "
Quebec Pine & Spruce Deals.....	6,387 "	5,848 "	892 "	729 "
Baltic Deals.....	3,637 "	2,373 "	417 "	442 "
" Boards.....	340 "	60 "	21 "	30 "
" Boards Flooring.....	6,642 "	2,048 "	723 "	304 "