

matured there will be hesitation about making commitments. Dealers do not appear to be stocking up for fall and winter business, but it is believed that the stocks carried are comparatively light and that considerable buying will be done in the late fall. There is some weakness in the higher grades, but all the lower grades remain firm and constitute the bulk of the sales. Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers report a scarcity of low grade pine, their efforts to increase the supply by purchases in the Lake Superior district not having met with much success. The demand for Norway is strong, while the supply is light. The market generally has been strengthened by the action of the North-Western Hemlock Manufacturers' Association, which has put into effect an advance in hemlock dimension which amounts to 50 cents a thousand on lengths over 20 feet and on 3 x 12 in 18 feet, also on 16-foot common boards and ship-lap. The general shortage of dimension stock and heavy demand for it is responsible for this action.

An important meeting of the hardwood manufacturers of the United States was held at Cincinnati on September 5th. At this meeting it was reported that 70 per cent. of the membership had suggested a revision of the price list making an advance on certain items. The report from 190 manufacturers showed that the surplus stock on hand August 1st was only 4,677,000 feet, whereas one year ago the surplus stock held by 70 members was 3,330,000 feet. It will thus be seen that the statistical position of hardwoods is strong. Maple flooring does not improve. This is surprising in view of the fact that prices of maple lumber are firmer, and everything else in the hardwood line is in good demand.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

The buying of lumber in the British market has not improved to any extent. Prices have reached the point where buyers think they cannot go much higher, and accordingly they are disposed to wait in the hope of a reaction. Prompted by reliable advice, we reiterate that the conditions in Canada do not offer any hope of lower prices for lumber shipped to Great Britain this season. Shippers have absolutely refused to consider offers which represent a reduction in price, and if they cannot obtain their asking prices they are likely to carry the stock over till next spring. The situation in London has been improved by a reduction in the quantity of lumber in the public docks. While the amount is larger than at same time last year, there is a marked reduction as compared with a few months ago. Deals, for instance, that in the early part of the year exceeded last year's stock by a million pieces, are now in excess by only 15,000 pieces. There is quite a large stock of Baltic boards. Foy, Morgan & Company

estimate that the present stock of Baltic deals constitutes a sufficient supply for the next seven months. The Canadian supply is, comparatively, much lighter. At Liverpool the supply of pine and spruce deals is considerably less than at the corresponding period last year. The high price of first quality pine deals has curtailed the consumption to some extent. Considerable spruce has been sold throughout Ireland. Current values for about 60 per cent. 9 inch x 3 inch are £9 2s 6d to £9 5s per St. Petersburg standard of 1980 feet, c.i.f. Belfast. Plasterers' laths have been consumed in large quantities, the price of 3/16 x 1 inch having steadily advanced from £5 10s per standard to £6 10s. Rock elm timber is in good demand, also oak. The stock of ash timber is light, but the demand has been curtailed by importations of plank.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

H. S. Breunan & Company will take out logs at Birch Island, McGregor Bay, next winter.

The base price of hemlock in Tonawanda is \$16.50. Some retail dealers have been shading prices slightly.

Probably the last raft of square timber of the season is at the Chaudiere slides, Ottawa. It belongs to E. Moore and contains 193 cribs.

The steamer Platea is completing her cargo of lumber at Gaspé, Que., and will shortly sail for the United Kingdom, with about 3,500,000 feet.

It is reported that the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Company, of Webbwood, Ont., will have ten camps in operation the coming winter taking out pulp wood.

Norway piece stuff is in short supply in the Chicago market. All the Norway possible nowadays is converted into inch lumber, which sells well in place of soft pine.

Hemlock piece stuff is selling in Chicago at \$12 to \$12.50; long lengths \$1.50 to \$2.25 a thousand more than shorts; Norway short lengths, \$16 to \$16.50, hemlock inch lumber, \$17 to \$18.

W. M. Mackay has this season loaded four steamers and one bark with lumber at Hopewell Cape, N. B., the total shipment being about 18,000,000 feet. The barque Avoca is now loading at that place for J. Nelson Smith and John L. Peck.

The Department of Interior at Ottawa is prepared to receive offers up to October 7th for a license to cut timber on Berth No. 1089, comprising the south-half of section 6, section 9, and the north-west corner of section 10, in the Province of Manitoba.

Shingles are in better demand in the Saginaw Valley, and the supply in dealers' hands is small. Cedar shingles are held

at \$2.60 and \$3.60 for 18 inch, and \$2 and \$2.45 for 16 inch.

The Lands and Works Department of British Columbia will receive tenders up to September 23rd for a twenty-one years' license for cutting timber on lot 5,983 on Cherry Creek, East Kootenay, containing 10,855 acres. Tenders must be accompanied by certified cheques for \$5,266, the amount of the first year's rental and the cost of surveying and cruising the limits.

Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company, in their report of August 29th, refer to the Barbados market as follows: "There has been no arrival of white pine during the fortnight. The market is lightly stocked and first receipts should do well. In spruce the 'Success' from Parapeti, Que., brought 70,000 feet, which owing to the present stimulated condition of the market, brought \$21.63 as it runs. This is a very full rate and may not be maintained unless receipts are very moderate. This steamer brought 690,000 shingles, of which about 240,000 laying cedar has been sold to arrive at \$2.43½ and 160,000 long were for one of the lumber dealers. Further receipts should also do fairly well. The balance, consisting of 200,000 long and 78,000 dimension, were sold at \$5.56, \$6.56 and \$5.31 for the former, while the latter were placed at \$4.60 for 4-inch, \$6.25 for 5-inch, \$7.35 for 6-inch and \$8.55 for 7-inch. These high prices have undoubtedly been brought about by the anticipated demand acting on a moderately stocked market and are somewhat inflated."

#### BRISK DEMAND FOR HARDWOODS.

Apparently there is no abatement in the demand for all the leading hardwoods. Buyers who go south and north among the mills are just as zealous in picking up lumber as they were months ago. Wherever there is a bunch for sale it is snatched up without delay, says the American Lumberman. In the south the early season was so wet that getting logs was impossible a large part of the time, and difficult nearly all the time, so that there has not been nearly a normal season's output. At the same time the demand from manufacturers of finished product of all sorts, from the builders, furniture factories, car shops and railroads, has taken all the oak, ash, cottonwood, birch, basswood, poplar, elm and maple that could be produced. The stress has been particularly strong in oak, prices have vaulted upward and remain unbroken all along the line, because there are no accumulations, and no competition among sellers. How long this will continue depends on future conditions at the mills and in the woods, and on the rate of demand. At present there are no conditions that point to a larger supply in proportion to the demand or softer prices. A like comment can be made on the

other hardwoods, though the call for oak is the most emphasized, because it is the most conspicuous hardwood in the country. Ash cannot be procured in sufficient quantity to make it overabundant in any season, and now that the supply in the south has been shortened by unfavorable weather for logging the demand is especially pronounced. In the southern list cottonwood this season attracts a good deal of attention because it is in short supply.

Northern hardwoods are sold close up to the point of scarcity. The call for birch continues urgent with small stocks with which to respond. Basswood is in like condition. Soft elm is wanted all the time, but the coopers have for a year or two taken so much of the Michigan product that it has diminished the supply of lumber. It is generally understood that the season's cut of hard maple has been mostly sold or put under contract.

Finally, when we consider the whole line of hardwoods there is no burdensome surplus anywhere, while the demand for consumption continues to absorb what is offered. Of course under such conditions it is easy to maintain prices.

#### BROOM HANDLES.

If an enterprising man with supplies of cheap Spruce, Basswood or Poplar cares to put in several machines to work broom handles we can take his output. Write in first instance to Empire, care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.

Boston prices for spruce lumber rule about as follows: 10 and 12 inch dimensions, \$21; 9 inch and under, \$19; 10 and 12 inch random lengths, 10 ft. and up, \$20.50; 2 x 3, 2 x 4, 2 x 5, 2 x 7, and 3 x 4, 10 ft. and up, \$17 to \$17.50; all other random lengths, 9 inches and under, 10 ft. up, \$18 to \$18.50; merchantable boards, 5 inch and up, \$17; matched boards, \$18.50 to \$19; bundled furring, random lengths, p. 12, \$17.

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