

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

ST. JOHN, N. B., March 14th, 1904.—Shipping is somewhat brisker than at last writing. Schooners are coming out of winter quarters in large numbers and many are already taking cargoes for American ports. Charters are being made at \$2.25 on long lumber to Boston and at \$2.75 to New York.

American laths are selling at from \$2.35 to \$2.45 per M. f.o.b. schr. St. John, for immediate delivery. Stocks are very low, not more than two million at the outside being available at the present moment, and the demand is brisk.

Provincial laths are worth from \$2.15 to \$2.20 per M. Stocks in this line are also small. An advance of from 10 cents to 20 cents per M. on laths is confidently expected in the near future.

The outlook for shingles is not so encouraging. The feeling seems to be that during the next few months at least, the shingle market will not recover the falling off in prices (10 cents per M. on the high grades and 5 cents on the low) which took place last fall, but rather that the better grades may go lower yet. American cedar shingles, f. o. b. St. John, are worth: Extras, \$2.95; Clears, \$2.45; 2nd Clears, \$1.95; Extra No. 1, \$1.15; No. 1, \$1.00.

The purchasable stocks of American shingles in and about St. John is very low, possibly three million at the outside. From now until the middle of April the weekly output will be in the vicinity of 700 M. When that time comes all the manufacturers will be able to obtain their cedar logs (which are at present, as is usual at this season, ice-bound in the coves and booms) and after that the weekly output

will be in the vicinity of two and a half millions. Provincial and American combined.

Local sales of shingles are few, but with the opening of navigation in the river trade will in all probability be very briskly resumed at the following prices: 2nd Clears, \$2.00; Extra No. 1 \$1.30; No. 1 \$1.00. Few of the higher grades are sold in the provinces for local consumption. Local stocks of lower grades are much smaller than usual.

W. W. Reed, of Reedsville, Que., has over 1,000,000 feet of logs on the shores of Lake Massawippi for rafting to his mill this spring.

The Pembroke Lumber Company, per S. Anglin & Company, have secured the contract to supply the Board of Works of

Kingston, Ont., with lumber, the price being \$2,511.60.

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