needed rain has fallen throughout the South Australian colonies, and agricultural prospects are brighter than they have been for many years past. This will give an impetus to the commerce of the country, in which lumber will no doubt share.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

A raft of square timber comprising ninety cribs, and owned by Wm. Mackey, passed through the slides at Ottawa last week.

The Dominion government is calling for tenders for the construction of a telegraph line from River Romaine eastward to Baie Chateau, Strait of Belle Isle.

The str. Veva sailed from Parrsboro, N. S., on July 5th, for a British port, with 2,099,474 feet of deals and 226,458 feet of ends and scantling, shipped by M. L. Tucker.

The str. Cheronea sailed last week from St. John, N. B., for Cardiff, with 1,672 standards of deals. The Anna Moore sailed for Dublin with 1,067 standards of deals.

By the breaking away of the boom at the mills of F. X. Gosselin, at Biae St. Paul, Que., a large quantity of logs passed out to sea. The loss is estimated at $25,000, but it is hoped that some of the logs may yet be recovered.

Last week L. C. Slade purchased 2,000,000 feet of lumber from Pitts & Co., of Bay City, Mich., cut from Canadian logs. Mershon & Co. also bought 1,500,000 feet from the same firm, these being the only sales of any consequence reported.

There are few shingles being manufactured in Michigan this season. Not much shingle timber was put in during the winter, and only one or two firms on the Saginaw river are making shingles. The price is $2 and $3 for pine, and 25 cents less for cedar.

The North-Western Hemlock Manufacturers' Association have issued a new list on hemlock, based on $9.50 for short piece stuff, on Wausaw, W's., rate of freight, with one dollar higher for the longer lengths; 12 inch boards are quoted at $11.50, and 6, 8, and 10 inch at $10.50. The eastern hemlock list, which is based on a Philadelphia rate of freight, is $13.50 on short piece stuff, and one dollar additional for 18 and 20 feet.

Ottawa capitalists, including Messrs. Geo. Perley, Fred Avery and Charles E. Reid, have purchased the saw mills of Alex. Baptiste at Calumet, Que., together with 640 square miles of timber lands. The limits have been cut for white pine for a number of years, but there is a large quantity of spruce yet standing. It is understood to be the intention of the new proprietors to erect a pulp mill.

The following charters are reported: Bark Silenzio, 701 tons, St. John, N. B., to Cardiff or Newport, deals, 43s 9d; str. Cheronea, St. John, N. B., to Cardiff, deals, 41s 3d, August loading; barque Mark Twain, 765 tons, Tusket Wedge, N. S., to Beunos Ayres, lumber, $9.50; str. Mendota, 1,656 tons, Miramichi to Manchester, pulp wood, 15s; Rockcliff, 1,497 tons, Bay of Fundy to w. c. England, deals, 44s 6d; Sayer, 1,618 tons, Quebec to London, deals, 45s.

Following is a comparative statement of timber, &c., measured and culled at Quebec to July 11th, 1899:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Waney white pine, cu. feet.	1,033,230	808,256	950,798
White pine, cu. feet.......	190,229	570,462	266,664
Red pine, cu feet.	64,991	98,580	87,429
Oak, cu. feet...............	777,855	543,900	352,458
Elm, cu. feet...............	366,738	344,712	396,879
Ash, cu. feet..............	78,629	25,773	52,740
Basswood, cu. feet	75		
Butternut, cu. feet	639	795	60
Birch and Maple, cu. feet..	173,828	106,480	231,575
Tamarac			415

The following rafts of timber have been entered at the office of the Supervisor of Culler's, Quebec, since last report: Alex. McCall, at Upper Sillery, oak, etc; D. McMillan, at Indian Cove, oak; G. Blanchard, at Bridgewater Cove, oak; N. McIntyre, at Dobell's Cove, elm, etc; A. McCall, at Upper Sillery, waney pine; Gillies & Son, at Lower Sillery, elm.

It is interesting, too, to watch the arrival of spruce cargoes to the East Coast. Those who have thought that the Canadian article has not come to stay should keep an eye on Newcastle, West Hartlepool, and the Humber ports, and they should also note who the receivers are. We think they will find that many an importer of Baltic wood is now going strong for the spruce. When we think of the cheap price, the advantages of special lengths—so easily arrangeable with Canadians and so impossible with the Baltic shippers—we cannot wonder that spruce seems to be gaining ground.—Timber News, Liverpool, Eng.

Of the lumber trade at St. John, N.B., the Maritime Merchant says: "The prospect is that lumber will be scarce and prices higher," said a leading St. John shipper last week. He pointed out that less than 100,000,000 sup. feet of logs will come through the Fredericton booms this year, compared with 131,000,000 feet last year and 165,000,000 feet the year before. The export from West Bay he figured at 28,000,000 feet, compared with over 40,000,000 feet last year; while the shipments from other ports up the bay, and along the straits from Shediac to Northport, would not exceed fifty per cent. of last year's. There are no deals offered here from outside points, because all available supplies have been bought up. Deals cut in the city mills are worth $11 to-day, which is $2.50 to $3 above last year's prices. Reports from the United States show that market to be very firm at a sharp advance over last year.

THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

The last monthly timber report of Fraser & Co., Melbourne, Aus., thus reviews the lumber market:

But little animation has been shown in timber dealings during the last few weeks, though a few fairly large transactions have been carried through, and in these sales somewhat better rates have been secured than were ruling at the date we issued our last report. In some classes of timber which are not so largely consumed (notably American shelving, and clear pine) lower prices have been accepted, and for these lines the market is, and will be for some time, in an unsettled state, owing to the heavy stocks on hand, and to the desire of some shippers to arrange further business at a reduced c.i.f. basis of cost. Outside, however, of the kinds we refer to, values of most other timber are more likely to advance than otherwise; but as the demand is somewhat inactive at this time of year, we hardly look for any marked improvement to be manifested until about the commencement of the spring season, when trade operations should also be much increased, and business be experienced of a more regular character than has been the case for some time past.

SPRUCE AND BALTIC WHITE DEALS.—Imports: 114,840 feet super. Arrival: Silas, from Grimstadt. The above lot of Baltic White was sold "ex wharf." Canadian stocks have been in poor demand, 2½d per foot of 9 x 3 is market value for an average specification.

OREGON PINE.—Sales have been made out of stocks in the yard at slightly better than £5 12s 6d for an average assortment. Business "to arrive" has been concluded at about the same basis.

LAKE OF THE WOODS LOG SUPPLY.

Some figures are to hand of the log supply this season for the mills at Rat Portage and Keewatin. There was cut on the Canadian side, for the Rat Portage Lumber Company, 24,000,000 feet. Of these 35 to 40 per cent was white pine, and the remainder principally Norway, a small portion being spruce. There was 23,640,740 feet cut on the American side for the Rat Portage Lumber Company, and 11,310,000 for the Keewatin Lumber & Manufacturing Company. The cut of the large firms was as follows: Stitt & Howe, 7,600,000 ft.; Buckman, about 4,000,000; Samuel Nodeg, 880,740; H. C. Mead, 2,960,000; Graham & Horne, 7,400,000; Kehl & Deary, 11,082,000; Frank Pelland, 365,000; W. L. Keiver, 174,000; Louis Stellar, 158,000; R. Dearing, 103,000; and Wm. Kennedy, 228,000; making a grand total of 58,850,740 feet, not to speak of piles, ties, cedar poles and posts and piling, as accurate figures are not yet available for these items. They form a considerable item in the operations of Rat Portage concerns. The logs cut on the American side for the Rat Portage market are on the Little and Big Forks and the Rainy River, principally the operations of the lumbermen extending into Beltrami, Itasca and even St. Louis counties.

THE BARBADOS LUMBER MARKET.

Concerning the Barbados lumber market, Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Co. in their last report, say: "There have been no receipts of white pine for about six weeks, and we can only repeat our advices that one or two cargoes would do well, especially with a good proportion of second quality. We value first receipts at about $22 for first and $16 for second quality. In spruce the only arrival has been the Etta E. Tanner, from Meteghan, N. S., which cargo was placed at $16.30 for shipping. Stocks are almost nil, but demand at this time is small; a couple of cars would supply requirements for some little time. In shingles the Neva, from Paspebiac, Que., brought 1,095 M long Gaspe cedars, the bulk of which lot was sold at $3.50. A small parcel of very superior quality, ex Nellie Morrow, was placed at $5.40, and the diamond brought 120 M from Gaspe, which are now for sale.

SOME HARDWOOD CONSIDERATIONS.

A man who poses as a lumber trade prophet, and who abounds in philosophical observations, delivered a private lecture the other day on the future of the hardwood market. His argument was about as follows: Dry stock is exhausted, and consumers are buying from hand to mouth, and by the use of dry kilns fitting green stock for consumption. In the meantime there is the northern cut of hardwoods, which was last winter the largest on record, and throughout the country a big lot of lumber is going on to sticks. A few months hence this lumber which is being piled at the mills will be in condition for shipment, and there suddenly will be a large amount of hardwood on the market, and then the market will break, and the fancy prices obtaining at this time will be a thing of the past.

This argument, however, does not find favor with the majority of the trade, and seems fully counterbalanced by other considerations. Lumber is being bought green simply because consumers have exhausted the supplies of dry. To a certain extent their purchases at the present time are of stock, but no small amount of the green lumber that is going into hands of consumers is for immediate consumption. While the output is large, the consumptive requirement is so nearly on par with it that it is impossible in some woods to increase the stocks, and thay can be increased but slightly in any variety.

It is not only possible but probable that there will be a readjustment of the hardwoods price list, but that there will be any substantial decline or that anything that can be called a break in the values of hardwoods can take place is altogether beyond the probabilities.

It should not be forgotten that there will be for a long time to come a stocking-up requirement which, as yet, has hardly begun to be satisfied. During the period of business depression following the 1893 panic, manufacturers generally allowed their stocks to reach a very low point. This they could do with some safety under conditions then prevailing, because the stocks that they themselves lacked could always be found in any desired quantity and for immediate delivery. This kind of policy, however, cannot be depended upon in the long run, and with more prosperous conditions lumber consumers are desirous of carrying normal stocks. They will not cease buying, therefore, until their supplies shall be replenished to a point which will enable them to be temporarily independent of outside stocks. But the point of replenishment will not soon be reached, for the demand for manufactured commodities continues large and shows no sign of abating. Lumber is moving out in the shape of goods about as fast as it can be secured, dry or green; so the stability of the market seems assured for practically a year to come.—American Lumberman.

Edwin Athya & Co., timber importers, 9 Gracechurch street, London, E.C., have admitted Mr. Phillip Thompson as a partner, the style of the firm remaining unchanged.

Deal freight rates from Montreal rule about as follows: To Liverpool, 35s to 37s 6d; Glasgow, 42s 6d to 45s; London, 42s 6d; Bristol, 45s; Leith, 50s; Aberdeen, 50s; Belfast or Dublin, 42s 6d to 45s; Manchester, 45s.