

# Market Reports.

## MONTREAL.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nov. 24th.—The shipping season is now over, and navigation from this port is closed, only a few market boats are still running, which are to go into winter quarters on Saturday. The total shipments of lumber from Montreal to the River Plate during the past season and for previous years were as follows:—

	Pine.	Spruce.	Total	Picks.
1881	11,800,152	1,023,644	12,823,796	53,145
1880	.....	.....	10,420,080	.....
1879	.....	.....	12,476,150	.....
1878	.....	.....	10,855,240	.....
1877	.....	.....	8,787,928	.....
1876	.....	.....	5,437,000	.....
1875	.....	.....	10,123,000	.....
1874	.....	.....	16,262,203	.....
1873	.....	.....	30,073,910	.....
1872	.....	.....	28,234,068	.....
1871	.....	.....	16,005,035	.....

It will be noticed from the above table that the shipments have been larger this year than any previous year since 1874. The total shipments of deals from Montreal to English ports during the season of 1881 were 18,236,849 feet, against 18,701,835 feet for the season of 1880, showing a decrease of 464,986 feet. There is a good deal of lumber lying on the wharves yet, which has lately arrived, and dealers are busy getting it transported into yards. The demand lately has been light, and there is really so little done in this market that prices do not fluctuate much, if any, we therefore repeat our former quotations. For building lumber, ex yard, we continue to quote:—

Pine, 1st quality, 2 M	.....	\$32	00	740	00
Pine, 2nd " " M	.....	18	00	724	00
Pine, shipping culls, 2 M	.....	12	00	615	00
Pine, cull deals, 2 M	.....	8	00	610	00
Pine, mill culls, 2 M	.....	5	00	6	50
Spruce, 2 M	.....	8	00	610	00
Hemlock, 2 M	.....	8	00	610	00
Ash, run of long culls out, 2 M	.....	10	00	618	00
Bass, " " M	.....	14	00	610	00
Oak, 2 M	.....	35	00	645	00
Birch, 2 M	.....	17	00	620	00
Hard Maple, 2 M	.....	18	00	625	00
Lath, 2 M	.....	1	25	6	35
Shingles, 1st, 2 M	.....	3	00	6	00
Shingles, 2nd, 2 M	.....	2	00	6	00

CORWOOD.—The cold weather for the past few days has stimulated the demand, but it is not very brisk, as yet; high prices seem to make people use coal instead. There are considerable quantities still on the wharves, for which holders would probably shade prices rather than cart it into yards. The only change in prices is in tamarack, which is now quoted lower. Our figures are now on wharf, ex cartage:—

Long Maple	.....	\$0	50
Short	.....	0	00
Long Birch	.....	0	00
Short	.....	5	50
Long Beech	.....	5	50
Short	.....	5	00
Long Tamarack	.....	4	50
Short	.....	4	40

## LONDON, ONT.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nov. 10th.—Less than twenty years ago it would have been considered a foolish undertaking to commence the erection of a huge block of buildings at this season of the year. I understand, however, that now we are many days older the process of tearing down the Holman Opera House will begin, and on its site are to be built a handsome block of wholesale stores, and the building is to go on at once. Since we have had the Grand Opera House to go to, the Holman place has gone the way of all old and time worn institutions. The purchase of the property has been made by Messrs. Birrell, of the wholesale house of John Birrell & Co., and two other gentlemen, and it is the intention of the Birrell firm to occupy the largest portion of the new premises as their store, and no better site could be chosen, in fact this Holman property may be said to be about as valuable a one as there is in London, being situated, as it is, right in the heart of the city, on the principal street, and close to the G. W. R. depot. Well, all this description is only a prelude to informing you that the woodwork and lumber contract will be probably in the neighbourhood of \$10,000, and it is expected that it will be given out to private contract, that is, no tenders will be publicly solicited.

In the past two weeks the lumber market has

been brisk for the time of year. Though the sales have been small, they have been numerous, and it is simply a demand for the requirements to make things snug and secure for winter.

I am informed that a lumberman in this city is desirous of selling out an established business. It might be worth the notice of some of your readers.

Prices are about the same as in my last letter.

## Later.

Nov. 24.—Since my last letter of two weeks ago nothing of particular note has transpired in this market. Lumber merchants seem all to be well occupied, and are sending out from their yards considerable stock for the purposes stated in my former letter, viz., making things snug and secure against the winter blasts.

Building, as may naturally be expected, is not now rushing, but mill men say they are busy notwithstanding. The large block of wholesale houses to be built on the Holman Opera House site, it has been said, will not be proceeded with this winter, but I have been informed in an authentic quarter that it will, and that the present building (Opera House) will be razed in a week or two. The contract for the lumber is not yet given out, but will be now in a few days.

Messrs. Green's mill is again rebuilt, and part of the machinery is at work.

I was informed the other day that the market here had advanced from one dollar to one dollar and a half, the result of a like advance in Sarnia, where the merchants have certainly put up their prices that much, but on making a very searching enquiry, I find prices here remain about the same, with an upward tendency, however, and the probability is that my next price list will have to undergo very material revising. Some parties in town are selling shingles at \$2.90, but the bulk of the merchants, and in fact the merchants proper, are keeping their figures up at last quotations. Though Sarnia lumbermen have advanced, the Goderich men remain firm at former rates, and this is probably one reason why we have not advanced here. We do not take a great deal of lumber from Sarnia.

My report of the market at this date is,—very firm and steady, with indications of an advance.

Below are the prices at present:—

QUOTATIONS.	.....	\$10	00
Mill cull boards and scantling	.....	11	00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	.....	11	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	12	50
Common boards, promiscuous widths	.....	14	00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.	.....	14	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	15	50
" " " " " " " "	.....	16	50
" " " " " " " "	.....	18	00
Common stocks	.....	14	00
Common 2 in. plank	.....	13	00
Cutting up plank and boards	.....	18	00
Sound dressing stocks	.....	17	00
Clear and picks	.....	31	00
Three uppers, Am. inspection	.....	35	00
1 inch dressed and mated flooring	.....	20	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	20	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	20	00
XXX sawn shingles, 2 M	.....	3	00
Lath per 1000 feet	.....	4	00

## TORONTO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nov. 22nd.—Lumber shipments from this port to the American market may be said to have virtually closed for this season. Some few cargoes may yet go forward, but the determination of all insurance companies not to insure deck loads makes it unprofitable for vessel owners, as few shippers care to run the risk themselves, and to stow good lumber in the hold is not desirable; so that both shippers and vessel owners must work at a disadvantage in any more shipments they may see fit to make this season.

The decrease in shipments for the American market has resulted in a marked increase of lumber for the local market, and it may not be amiss to give you a record of my observations as to the stocks carried by the various yards which I have visited:—

Bryce Bros., corner of Front and Frederick streets, hold perhaps the largest stock of heavy bill lumber to be found in any of the yards here, and their stock is only light compared with that held by that firm at other times in the past; the next yard, a little further west on the esplanade, is that of Reid & Co., their stock is a compact one, but deficient in various kinds of

dimension stuff. Still a little further west we come to the yard owned by J. B. Smith, this gentleman being largely interested in the manufacture of all building material, does not at any time carry a large stock of dimension stuff, but is well up in all kinds of dressed lumber, and furnishes large bills for points as far east as Montreal, and is one of our oldest and most reliable dealers here. A little further east and on the corner of Queen and Sherbourne streets, we have the yard owned by De LaPlant & Co., who carry a compact little stock, and are also wood and coal dealers. One mile to the N. W. of the last mentioned we come to the yard owned by C. H. Edwards, whose stock is extremely light, and largely deficient in the various sizes of joisting. A compact trade is done by Mr. Edwards, he being also a dealer in coal and wood. A little farther north stands the yard of P. A. Scott, this yard has been circumscribed by the action of our City Council in forcing a street through it, and for which, it is claimed by the proprietor, he has not been adequately remunerated. However, considering the size of the yard, he carries a snug stock, but like all the other yards mentioned, short in dimension stuff. South-west of this yard we arrive at the premises kept by Messrs. Hillock & Kont, and, considering the size, they undoubtedly carry the best assorted and most compact stock to be found in the city, and although their stock may not be quite as varied as the dealer on whose sign read "Tar, Treacle, Gohly Books, Gimlets, etc., etc., sold here," still anything in the wood line from lignum vitae, or boxwood, to clear pine lumber, can constantly be obtained here. To the south of this yard, and situated on the esplanade, we find the extensive shops and yards kept by John Oliver, and to give you anything like a full description of the stock held by this firm would take up more space than can at present be spared, suffice it to say that their stock is both a varied and costly one. They do not profess to carry a large stock of pine, but in hard woods and fancy woods, including veneers, they doubtless bear off the palm from all other yards of the kind in the Dominion, and the entire yard being covered over enables them to keep their stock in the best order possible. One mile to the northwest of this yard we come to the yard of Messrs. S. & S. J. Wilcock, formerly Richardson & Wilcock, the senior member having lately retired, the business is now conducted by the former partners. The stock carried by this firm in their yard is at all times light, and is at present quite small, but this firm manage to fill a large portion of their orders direct from the cars, and so save considerable cost for piling and teaming, and the business done by this firm in this way is quite large. Nearly a mile to the north-west of this yard and near the corner of College and Bathurst streets, stands the yard owned by Messrs. Davidson & Malcolm. The members of this firm are both young men and only started in business one year ago, and have already earned for themselves a good reputation for prudence and push. The stock carried by this firm is light in bill stuff, but well up in boards, shingles, and lath, and the business done by this firm is rapidly increasing. To the south-west of this yard, and near the corner of Queen and Bathurst streets, stands the yard owned by Wm. Latch. The stock on hand here is also light in bill lumber, and only a scant stock of good boards. The business done by this firm is more of a car load business than retail. Near the village of Parkdale stand two yards, divided only by a board fence, the first of which is owned by Messrs. McKinley & Son. This firm are exceedingly close and careful buyers, and carry at all times a snug stock, and having the city to the east of them, and the village of Parkdale to the west, and the railroads passing close to their yard, they have a good opportunity of filling up their yard with short hauling, and a brisk building trade immediately around them. The yard to the west of the last named is owned by Joseph Davidson, and is the largest yard in point of superficial area in the city, and is the only yard in which the writer found a good stock of bill lumber. The facilities enjoyed by Mr. Davidson for furnishing this class of lumber will account for the stock in his yard. In the better class of lumber he falls short of many others before named.

## QUOTATIONS, OAK LOADS.

Mill cull boards and scantling	.....	\$9	00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths	.....	11	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	13	00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.	.....	11	50
" " " " " " " "	.....	12	50
" " " " " " " "	.....	13	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	13	50
" " " " " " " "	.....	14	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	15	00
Scantling and joist, up to 23 ft.	.....	10	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	18	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	20	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	22	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	23	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	20	00
" " " " " " " "	.....	32	00
Cutting up planks to dry	.....	18	00
boards	.....	10	00
Sound dressing stocks	.....	14	00
Picks Am. inspection	.....	20	00
Three uppers, Am. inspection	.....	34	00

## OTTAWA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nov. 23rd.—All indications in this vicinity show conclusive signs that lumbering operations for the season of 1881 have come to a close. The last fleet of barges for American ports left this week. All the mills, with the exception of one or two, have put on their winter's dress, and the small army of mill hands have left for the scene of their winter's work in the shanties of the different firms' limits on the Upper Ottawa. The closing this year is somewhat earlier than former seasons, owing to the supply of logs becoming short. Retrospectively speaking, the result of

## THE SEASON'S OPERATIONS

cannot be said to have come up to general expectations formed at the commencement of the year. Various causes are adduced for this, the principal one being the impossibility of having the logs cut last winter driven to their destination, owing to the early and continued falling of the water on the tributaries of the Ottawa. It is estimated that between Chats Rapids (where there are about 200,000 logs) and Frost's Channel, there are between 350,000 and 400,000 saw logs. These will have to remain where they are until next spring. There are numerous other instances of

## LOGS BEING STUCK,

and the quantity that will thus be held over will be very large. Notwithstanding this the lumber concerns have made preparations to take out an average number the coming winter, and it is anticipated, all things being favorable, that the next season will surpass that of any other season for years past, as a greater amount of logs will be brought down. Contracts entered into at the beginning of the season have been pretty well fulfilled.

## FEW SALES

are reported lately. Yards hereabouts are fairly stocked now, but by the end of a few months they will present a rather barren appearance, as, besides the local trade, on an average seventy and eighty carloads of lumber leave the Chaudiere weekly for Boston during the winter months. Quotations rule firm, but there is a prospect of an advance, the supply being small and the demand on the American market on the increase. The average quarterly export of lumber and shingles from this port to the States is valued at about \$550,000.

## BUSH FIRES

in the Ottawa Valley during the past season have caused a great amount of damage, the loss on limits being estimated at \$5,000,000. In the Gatineau district thousands of acres of mountain covered with pine and hemlock are burned every season by fires either started by settlers or parties prospecting for phosphates. In this connection it is gratifying to know that stringent measures are to be adopted by the Government of the Province of Quebec to prevent this great destruction of the forests. A Bill to this effect is being prepared and will be submitted at the next session of the Local House that will assure the needed protection in that Province, at least.

## SAW LOG JOBBERS

are beginning their operations. Rates paid are \$1.10 per standard for pine, and 50 cents for spruce logs. Owing to the prevailing scarcity