

locality are getting out a considerably larger cut. The amount of logs held over are smaller than a year ago, so that with an increased cut the probability is that the general output from the woods in the spring will average about the same as a year ago. In some sections the need of snow is felt and it is among the possibilities that trouble will be experienced in the spring in getting logs out.

There is difficulty in arriving at an opinion as to what extent lumber will be cut in Ontario rather than exported in the log to Michigan, but the fact that such concerns as Cutland & Savage, Wm. Peter and the St. Anthony Lumber Co., are operating large mills in Ontario would indicate that many logs that, under the old tariff would have been exported, will now be cut in the province.

The trade in deals with the United Kingdom shows improvement and it is expected that there will be an increase in this branch of trade on the Ottawa the coming season.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The improved conditions of the spruce market render the outlook in Quebec and New Brunswick more hopeful than it has been for some time. In the Maritime provinces there seems to be little doubt but that the change in the tariff will work for the improvement of the lumber trade. Lumbermen are anticipating this and making some preparation for an increase of business. The average of operations in the woods will probably be on a par with those of a year ago, though there are several important sections where the information comes to us that the cut will be much less, in some instances a reduction of at least one-half. The continued decrease of lumber shipments at the port of Quebec is a feature of the trade in that province that brings discouragement, and lumbermen are not hopeful of any remarkable improvement the coming season.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A development in the lumber trade of British Columbia is the continued shipments of lumber to San Francisco and adjacent markets. Experiments that were made in this direction shortly after the free lumber bill became law have apparently met with sufficient success to encourage the trade to further cultivate this trade, and elsewhere we note that several important shipments have gone forward to San Francisco. Local trade is fairly good and some of the mills are sending forward good sized stocks to the interior. Shingles, which form so large a part of the trade of the Coast province, do not show any substantial evidence of improvement. The lumbermen of British Columbia continue to hope for an early completion of the Nicaragua canal as a means of helping their export trade.

UNITED STATES.

Lumbermen enter into the new year feeling sanguine of a fair trade, and one that will level up, it is hoped, the dullness of the year just closed. Since the elections a revival in business generally has been manifest. At centres of trade plans are being laid for considerable building. Factories that have been closed, or running on short time, are commencing to resume active operations, and this is especially the case with those lines of manufacture in which lumber plays an important part. Whilst at Buffalo, Tonawanda and Albany large stocks of lumber are held, throughout the country retail yards are almost bare, and with a revival in trade it will not be long before wholesale stocks will become broken into. This is the view taken by mill men and they anticipate a good demand for the new product of the spring and summer. What is also worth noting is the improved demand that exists for the better grades of lumber, which shows that manufacturers are planning larger and better work. A feature of the lumber trade in the United States is the shipment of large quantities of pine from Duluth, direct into eastern markets. The LUMBERMAN a few days since was talking with a lumberman from Duluth, who said it was now a common practice for the trade in New York to place good orders with the mills in Duluth, and have

the lumber sent direct, without, as in the past, passing through several hands before reaching its destination.

FOREIGN.

A better feeling prevails in lumber circles in the United Kingdom than for some time past. There has been a great deal of hoping against hope during the past year, but the opinion expressed by Denny, Mott & Dickson in their wood market report is that the effort to employ capital is perceptibly developing speculation and this must tend to react favorably on industrial enterprise, and therefore on the demand for timber, unless checked by serious political or financial disturbances, in respect to which the outlook just now is reassuring. The same authority says: "First-class waney pine must continue to hold its own in price and there is very little in the market owing to the prohibited price demanded for it by shippers having caused merchants to import very little to hold for winter stock." It is believed that trade is improving in Australia, though slowly, and there will be a better demand there for lumber. South American trade is holding a fair average.

HARDWOODS.

A quiet, though steady trade, is being done in hardwoods. The larger demand is for basswood, elm and ash, and prices remain firm. A western manufacturer tells elsewhere in these columns that there has been an advance of \$1.00 per thousand since the removal of a \$2.00 duty, which is tantamount to dividing the duty between buyer and seller. This, however, it is claimed, holds good only in the case of hardwoods exported to the States. Wholesalers who are doing a local business say that prices are no better now than they were before the change in tariff, unless it is that they are more firm and there is less disposition to cut prices. Maple is not in so large demand as some other woods. No special activity is being shown in the cut for another season, and it will be regulated largely by conditions that may arise between now and spring. An improvement in United States hardwood markets is indicated by the increased size of receipts at Philadelphia and other eastern consuming centres. Quartered sawed white oak is reported in good demand at all points.

SHINGLES.

Anything hopeful that can be written of shingles is encouraging, and the fact noted in two separate reports, that a slight advance has taken place in shingles in New Brunswick, and that prices are firmer in the Saginaw Valley, will be some solace to the extreme dullness that has prevailed in the shingle market for a long time past. Aside from this there is little else of moment to be noted regarding the shingle trade.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

CANADA.

The lumber cut along the Tobique, N. B., will be larger this season than ever before.

J. A. Christie, of the Brandon Lumber Co., Brandon, Man., says prices of lumber will be greatly reduced at his mill next year.

It is not thought that the total manufacture of square timber in the Ottawa district this winter will run beyond 1,500,000 cubic feet.

Alexander Gibson has 27,000,000 feet ready to haul on the Nashwaak, N. B. On the Bartholomew river he has 9,000,000 feet for his new Blackville mill.

M. L. Tucker, lumberman, Parrsboro', N. B., says that the cut along the Parrsboro shore this winter will be about the same as last year, namely 40,000,000. Very few deals have been held over this season.

The lumber cut in Cumberland county, N. S. this winter will be about the same as in 1893 and considerably in excess of 1894. In 1893 the shipments from Parrsboro amounted to 40,000,000. Last year they dropped to 35,000,000.

Robert Connors, the big St. Francis

operator, is authority for the statement that the cut of lumber up the St. John river, N. B., will be lighter this winter than last. Last season some 23,000,000 of logs, which had been held over from the previous year, came out, which will effect further operations.

The barquentine, C. C. Funke, will load 800,000 feet of lumber at the Brunette saw mills, New Westminster, B. C., for California. The Cosmopolis cleared customs at Vancouver a week ago for San Francisco and San Luis Obispo. She carries 340,000 feet of rough and dressed lumber, and 50,000 laths, loaded at the Royal City Mills. It is expected she will return and load another cargo at the same mills.

It is computed that about 1,250,000 feet of square timber will be made in the Ottawa district this winter. Klock Bros. will make about 250,000 feet, Wm. Mackay, 150,000 feet, Booth & Shannon, 125,000 feet, Barnett & Mackay, 80,000 feet, and A. Barnett, 150,000 feet. The David Moore Lumber Co., Cox & Co., and other operators, will supplement this cut.

UNITED STATES.

Quartered sycamore, ash, cherry and maple are reported in steady demand at Boston.

The total receipts of lumber in Chicago in 1894 fell behind those of 1893 about 27,000,000 feet.

20,000,000,000 of logs have been cut in the Saginaw district and converted into lumber since 1851.

Eastern spruce is showing quite a gain in the New York market and stands firm at \$15.50 to \$16.00 for 10 to 12 inch stock.

The receipts of lumber from all sources at Tonawanda, N. Y., during 1894 were 422,623,000 feet, which is only 38,000,000 feet less than was received during 1893.

A car load of yellow pine has been received at Muskegon, Mich., by Mann, Moon & Co. This is the first shipment of this wood to that point and is looked upon as a case of meeting the white pine lion in his den.

William Peter, of Bay City, Mich., will put in 45,000,000 feet of logs this winter, 10,000,000 feet to stock his Newaygo mill and 35,000,000 feet in Canada, a portion of which will go to Michigan, and the rest will be cut at his new mill on the Georgian Bay.

1894 as compared with 1892 shows a depreciation of at least an average of \$3.00 a thousand in prices for lumber commodities at Saginaw, Mich., and 40% in the volume of trade. Lumber that sold readily in 1892 at \$20 to \$25 was a drug in 1894 at \$17 to \$20.

Boston reports from the lumber regions say that the cut on the Penobscot this winter will not exceed 60,000,000 feet of logs, which is hardly one-half the figure of last season, and the cut on the West Branch is also to be about 25,000,000, or one-half the usual amount.

Log run is offered in the Saginaw market at \$12.75 to \$18. Recent sales, however, ranged from \$14 to \$15.50. There has been an increased enquiry for shingles and sales are reported at \$1.75 for clear butts and \$2.75 for No. 1. Operators say the stock of shingle logs for next season will be very light.

THE SITUATION.

REFLECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OF "WEEKLY LUMBERMAN."

T. H. DECEW, Essex, Ont.: "Hardwood business is very quiet in the west, but will doubtless improve now that the year has opened. Prices are fair for what we do sell and about \$1.00 per 1000 in advance of last year in most kinds, which is about dividing equally with the American consumer the \$2.00 duty. Slack barrel staves are dull, although I have closed a contract for 6,000,000 for the new year at 25c. advance per thousand of last year's prices, therefore shall expect to do as much business in 1895 as in 1894. I have about 1,500,000 feet of hardwood lumber in stock, composed chiefly of black and

white ash, sycamore, soft maple, etc., red oak and cottonwood."

Guy E. Robinson, General Manager, New York and Canada Lumber Co., Ltd., New York: "From the fact of the early sale of most of Canadian stocks last season, they received better prices than could have been obtained later in the season, and from that fact we think that Canadian lumber has been higher than that of the western stock of this country, and therefore am inclined to think that the western people have been shipping more stock to this market in proportion than usual."

The Longford Lumber Co., Longford Mills, Ont.: "Yards full of lumber and about 3,000,000 feet of logs in Lake St. John. Had a good season's cut, neither of our mills losing a half day from breakages. Operations in the woods this winter are small on account of dull market, but in 1895 the company will have a full stock to sell with what they take out this winter, the logs at the mill and lumber unsold."

William Foster, Owen Sound, Ont.: "Business for the three closing months of 1894 was good, especially shipments to the United States markets. Several large stocks have changed hands lately, making stocks for sale light. Several good contracts have been taken for next season. All the mills intend to get out heavy stocks this winter. We feel the need of an improved system of inspection, and frauds on this account are not unfrequent."

A prominent lumberman, over the signature "White Basswood," writes of Eastern Ontario conditions as follows: "East and southeast from Ottawa comparatively little pine is to be found. Lumbermen are found operating country mills, cutting basswood, ash, maple, birch and other hardwoods, but the principal out-turn is in basswood and ash lumber. Many of the mills are found with stocks of 300,000 to 500,000 feet of ash and basswood lumber yearly, and though the stocks to draw from are now showing signs of depletion some millions of each of these kinds of lumber may be expected for some years to come from this section of Ontario. Basswood is principally sold in the Montreal market, while ash goes largely to the United States. The depression of the last two years has had the effect of leaving stocks of ash lumber on the hands of the mill men. About 1,000,000 feet of dry brown ash lumber is now in pile for sale in the vicinity of Alexandria. Some is moving off in small lots, and from inquiries made the indications point to clear yards shortly. Notwithstanding the depression in the United States, stocks have not been sacrificed by holders, and unless a buyer could see profit in buying good log run ash at \$14 per 1000 feet on cars at Alexandria, he would not buy a great deal. Good mill run basswood is staple at \$13.50 to \$14 per 1000 on cars, but there is practically none in first hands. Soft elm is sawn to a considerable extent. It is customary for buyers to contract for mill stocks during the winter, as soon as dry enough for shipping the mill yards are quickly cleared of their stocks on hand. James Rayside and A. McArthur & Son, of Lancaster; Macpherson & Schell, of Alexandria; McEwen & Monro, of Moose Creek, and A. McLennan, of Casselman, are the largest operators, and any of these firms handle from one to three million yearly."

Samuel Patterson, Quaco West, N. B.: "There are no stocks of lumber on hand in this section except what is held by Salmon River and Bostwick's Mills. Lumbering operations, however, are on a larger scale this year. There are five portable mills within the radius of a few miles of each other, besides various stationary mills."

H. G. Ross, Victoria, B. C.: "The conditions of lumbering and the trade in British Columbia is so different from what it is in the eastern portions of this continent that it is impossible to give the increase and decrease of stocks, for the reason that none, comparatively speaking, are kept on hand, the business being a hand-to-mouth one; that is, the sawing is done and orders come in, and any stocks on hand