

GREAT BRITAIN.

The light importation of lumber and the absence of consignment cargoes is greatly influencing the British lumber market. London will winter a smaller stock than for many years past. Business is still on a restricted basis, but if there should be any material improvement in the consumption in the near future, the statistical position of the market is such that prices might advance sharply. Holders of Canadian pine and spruce are showing a disposition to carry over their stocks until the spring, in the belief that shipments will be light owing to the large demand at home and in the United States, and that higher prices will then be obtained. The London import of pine deals from the St. Lawrence up to November 30th of this year was 970,000 pieces, as against 1,573,000 pieces for the corresponding period of 1903. Of spruce deals the import was 1,829,000 pieces, as compared with 2,148,000 pieces. The import of New Brunswick deals was 635,000 pieces this year and 909,000 pieces in 1903. Baltic whitewood has advanced in sympathy with spruce. Elm timber continues to show strength, the stock being light and in fair request. Birch planks are selling at from £7 15s. to £8 5s. per standard.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

L. K. Jones, Secretary Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, is asking for tenders up to January 3rd, 1905, for the supply of timber required for the Welland canal.

The Mouthrop Lumber Company, of John's Island, Ont., will take out about 20,000,000 feet of logs this winter. S. O. Fisher is taking out about 12,000,000 feet near Blind River, Ont.

The members of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association shipped during the month of November 47,000,000 feet of lumber, being the largest shipments made in that month for five years. They also are the largest for any month with three exceptions for this year.

It is understood that Mason, Gordon & Company, of Montreal, are operating this winter two small camps, one in the Town-

ship of Osborne and the other in the District of Nipissing. They expect to take out about 100,000 cubic feet of waxy white pine timber and 3,000,000 feet of white pine logs. Both the timber and the logs are of extra good quality and large size and are in the market for sale.

Messrs. Smith & Tyrer, Liverpool, Eng., say: "Values ruling to-day are the best since the summer and are firm for early shipment. They range from 10s. to 12s. 6d. per standard higher than they touched last summer. The stock in the district on the 1st inst. was about 3,000 standards less than a month previous. If the winter shipments are not large and the production is reduced as anticipated, we do not think there is any reason for alarm. The holders on the Canadian side will find that they will be wise not to sacrifice their stocks."

According to figures published in the American Lumberman, the cut of lumber at the head of the lakes this year, to the close of navigation, was 275,000,000 feet. There is on the docks 75,000,000 feet, of which 30,000,000 feet is unsold and 45,000,000 feet is sold awaiting delivery. These figures compare with a cut the previous year 100,000,000 feet larger and a total on docks of 30,000,000 feet more, of which 48,000,000 feet was unsold and 57,000,000 feet sold. In addition to the amount of lumber shipped from Duluth mills and which amounts to 310,000,000 feet for the season of navigation, 123,000,000 feet was shipped to Duluth from outside mills and 57,000,000 feet from Two Harbors.

The Bay City correspondent of the New York Lumber Trade Journal says that E. Germain is carrying a stock of 15,000,000 feet, Booth & Boyd must have about 16,000,000 in their yards, L. C. Stude is carrying 10,000,000 feet at least, A. C. White has several million in his yard, Bliss & Van Anken are carrying a good assortment, Merahon, Schuette, Parker & Co. have 40,000,000 feet, of which 25,000,000 feet is in their yards here and at Saginaw. E. B. Foss & Co. are carrying a very large and choice stock of white pine. Bradley, Miller & Co. have a good stock and usually get in a number of million feet by rail in addition to lake receipts

and F. G. Eddy & Co., the Bay City Box and Lumber Company, the Vance and Briscoe Companies, and the Kern Manufacturing Company are all carrying stocks that run into the million feet each.

Under date of December 3rd, Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Company review the lumber market as follows: "The schooner Eduardo arrived during the fortnight with 162,000 feet of second quality white pine, but the consignees receiving a better offer from Antigua than they could elicit here, sent the cargo to that island. Our market in white pine is well supplied, and dealers are not prepared to increase holdings except at lower prices. In spruce the only transaction we have to report is the sale of two small lots ex. George R. Alston from Port Daniel from different consignees, one of whom had 46,000 feet and accepted an offer \$22.50 for merchantable, \$17 for second quality and \$14 for inferior, but it turned out to be nearly all second quality. The other lot was sold at a round figure of \$19 17. Stocks of this are not heavy and a small cargo of good quality would do well. The G. R. Alston brought 260,000 Long Gaspé shingles, of which 62,000 were sold by one consignee at \$5.07 1/2; but the consignees of the balance, failing to obtain a suitable offer, have stored them. The quality of late shipments of shingles from Gaspé have not been up to standard, and this has induced dealers who have had complaints from their customers as to the quality of Long Cedar, to turn their attention to Wallaba shingles, which are made in Demerara. A considerable quantity are now imported from there, which tends to check the consumption of Cedar. Laying Cedar are still in fair stock, and as there is a large quantity reported to be about due, our market promises to be oversupplied in the near future."

Speaking of lumber conditions, Mr. W. B. Merahon, of the firm of Merahon, Schuette, Parker & Company, Saginaw, Mich., says:

"In our business November is the only month in which our sales have exceeded the corresponding month of the year previous. We noticed the activity entering into business about election time.

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