

usual summer trade. Prices are favorable to buyers, but this fact does not serve to stimulate interest, as purchases are only made in accordance with actual wants, and this line of policy laid down will not seemingly be overstepped.

Spruce has been received in more liberal quantities, and with some little duty to work off the increased stock, consignees have been obliged to modify slightly their previous prices. Sales of ordinary random cargoes have been made at \$13, but at the close this quotation was considered rather low, as the market having been cleared, the inside price named for anything about to arrive was \$13.50, while up to \$15.50 was asked for strictly desirable lots.

BORDEAUX.

The *Timber Trades Journal* says:—Some of your readers may be interested in knowing the present state of this market, but though I cannot write much of an encouraging nature, there is a better prospect from the fact of the splendid weather we are enjoying, which inspires new hopes for the near future, and promises a good harvest, which is much needed. The last few months have really been a period of entire stagnation, though the season did not open so very badly. Fair prices were paid by the leading firms, but, instead of being contented with the results thus obtained, the sellers continued to press their stocks, thus giving the smaller houses opportunity to buy at even cheaper prices, and causing the larger ones to lose confidence.

What has surprised the timber trade here has been the firmness on the part of the spruce shippers, or rather their unwillingness to accept the prices offered by the importers; but the former have gradually given way, and now offer to close business at something like 7s. less than their opening quotations, but which sum the buyers here are not even prepared to pay.

CARDIFF.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of June 9 says: The timber market here remains far from satisfactory. As far as we can learn, very little has been done with the Baltic during the past week. One lot of from 400 to 500 standards of deals has changed hands, but the exact price, although not yet disclosed, is not believed to point to any improvement. Steamer charterers are holding out strongly at 33s. 6d. from the lower Baltic ports. From Quebec there is almost nothing being done. In the pitwood market overstocking seems to be still the order of the day. French and Scotch fir are selling freely at 17s. 6d. to 18s., which means a severe loss to the importers, when we say that prices at Bordeaux are maintained at about 14s., free on board.

LONDON.

We take the following from Messrs. Churchill and Sim's London circular of June 10th:—The stock of wood in the docks on the 31st May was—foreign deals and battens, 3,545,000 pieces, against 4,150,000 in 1882 and 3,767,000 in 1881; pine and spruce battens, 933,000 pieces, against 1,309,000 in 1882 and 1,681,000 in 1881; on the quays, 267,000 pieces, against 368,000 in 1882 and 259,000 in 1881; boards, 5,563,000 pieces, against 7,328,000 in 1882 and 4,483,000 in 1881; total, 10,312,000 pieces, against 13,155,000 pieces in 1882 and 10,190,000 pieces in 1881. The delivery from the docks from the 1st of January has been to June 2, 1883—foreign deals and battens, 4,573,000 pieces; pine and spruce battens, 1,168,000 pieces; boards, 4,571,000 pieces; to June 3, 1882—foreign deals and battens, 4,594,000 pieces; pine and spruce battens, 1,401,000 pieces; boards, 4,790,000 pieces; to June 4, 1881—foreign deals and battens, 4,852,000 pieces; pine and spruce battens, 1,363,000 pieces; boards, 4,435,000 pieces. Or in cubical contents to June 2, 1883—sawn wood, 81,696 P. S. H.; prepared boards, 15,265 P. S. H.; timber, 44,467 loads to June 3, 1882—sawn wood, 88,773 P. S. H.; prepared board, 16,876 P. S. H.; timber, 40,211 loads; to June 4, 1881—sawn wood, 97,355 P. S. H.; prepared boards, 15,010 P. S. H. timber, 41,356 loads. The market in the past month has been lifeless, there having been but little demand either for the landed stock or for cargoes to arrive.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of June 9, says: Messrs. Churchill & Sim's forthcoming sale will

be interesting from the fact of the catalogue including several parcels of Gelfe deals of this season's shipment from one of the leading mills over there, some of which are for absolute disposal, besides other clearing lots from this port of favorite brands. There are also several lots of deals, &c., from Dickson's ports for those who hold to the reputation this shipment has so long enjoyed. In respect to other descriptions, the Quebec pine, ex Red Jacket, without reserve, is likely to prove attractive, and in anticipation of the forthcoming shipments, which cannot be here for several weeks yet, ought to meet with plenty of bidding. The recent heavy sales of Fredrikstad flooring have apparently not diminished the confidence of sellers in the ability of the market to go on consuming, and several such cargoes are distributed over the pages of the catalogue in the usual marketable sizes. Oak wainscot and sawn white oak planks as well figure amongst the unreserved lots, and a good assortment of pitch pine timber makes the sale altogether a specially attractive one, presenting an opportunity to the trade to suit themselves with almost every description they require.

LIVERPOOL.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of June 9th says:—Trade remains in a quiet condition all round, and the quays and wharves wear an aspect the reverse of animated. This, however, is not unusual at this time of year, seeing that the import season will soon be upon us, and many buyers refrain from putting their orders in the market until it has fairly commenced, and others are deterred from operating so late in the half-year.

The import for the past month, as we have reported from week to week, has been light. In pitch pine, both hewn and sawn, it is less than half the quantity imported in the corresponding month of last year, and the supplies of spruce also show a large decrease when compared with the same period. The demand for these articles, however, appears to have diminished in like proportion, leaving the stocks of timber but little below those of last year, whilst the stocks of deals of all kinds, flooring, &c., are in excess.

Prices continue low, and so long as the present condition of trade continues they are likely to do so. On all sides we hear complaints of the unsatisfactory state of the building trade, and until it assumes a more healthy tone it is useless to look for any marked improvement.

GLASGOW.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of June 9, says: The wood market here does not give the indications of briskness that might be expected, looking at the activity that prevails in the shipbuilding trade and the improved condition of housebuilding shown by the advance of a half-penny per hour given last month to the house joiners. On the contrary, it is rather dull for most descriptions of goods. There is an opening for birch and walnut logs, of which the market is comparatively bare. The large cargo of lower port birch that was recently brought to auction, as noted in the *Journal* of the 26th ult., is now all cleared out of first hands.

The public sale held at Greenock on the 31st was well attended. Of the goods offered, a large portion belong to a wrecked cargo (sold without reserve), and some portions were more or less damaged or chafed, so that the prices realized must not be taken for the market rate.

WASTE IN SAW DUST.

The *Winnipeg Commercial* says:—In the vast country extending from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains, in parts of which timber is plentiful, and in other sections of which fuel is scarce, the question of utilizing the enormous quantities of sawdust produced in the lumber districts as a source of fuel supply is one deserving of attention. The immense lumber cut of our mills every season will produce a quantity of sawdust, which if it could be made subservient as fuel would go a considerable way towards solving the problem of how our western country is to be supplied. Upon this subject the *Lumberman's Gazette* of Bay City, Mich., says:—"The timber converted into sawdust by the circulars on the Saginaw river is a very im-

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portant consideration, and amounts annually to millions of feet, and any invention which would be successful in saving any considerable portion of it and still compete in the amount of lumber produced would be a rich bonanza to the inventor, equal to an interest in the best flowing oil well or the richest silver mine in the country. Necessity is said to be the mother of invention, and as the forests disappear and timber becomes scarce, the necessity for economy becomes more and more apparent, and it is not beyond the range of possibility that great accomplishments in this direction are in store for the future."

SEEKING FOR TIMBER.

A new industry has recently been developed in Ireland—a sort of timber prospecting never dreamed of by our American pine hunters. It is a well known geological fact, says the *North-western Lumberman*, that immense tracts what are now bog lands in Ireland were once covered with forests of oak and pine, and that in cutting peat, immense trees of these varieties are found embedded in the earth at depths of ten, twenty and thirty feet, in many cases whole groves being found standing just as they grew. To find out the location of these miniature subterranean forests is now the speculative work in which some industrious Irishmen are engaged. The timber, when brought to the surface, is found to be perfectly sound, and the oak, which is as black as ebony, is used extensively for ornaments of jewellery and fancy cabinet work, and sells at a high price. A recent visitor to the wild moor and mountain region of Donegal thus describes the way in which the seekers after buried forests operate. Two men, armed with steel rods about thirty feet long, traverse the bog, and by running their rods into the ground are able to ascertain where the trees are to be found. They work by what may be termed natural mathematics, and quickly determine the length of their prize, its approximate diameter, whether it is pine or oak, and is or is not a clumper—one of a company or clump. They fix on twenty or thirty feet square, and cross it with their searchers, east north and south, and then east and west, search it across each way, a stab to each foot or so, and in the course of a few minutes they know whether that area contains what they are looking for. The square lying next and next, and all near each other, are so searched, and the discoveries, if any, marked for future action. The unproductive are also marked, to avoid future loss of labor.—*Scientific American*.

WOOD WORKING MACHINERY.

The question is often asked, will the machinery, especially wood-working machinery, of one hundred years hence embody any special advantage not possessed by the most improved tools of to-day? In some particular tools there is undoubtedly room for improvement, while in others perfection seems to have been attained. Many so called improvements are only such in name, and there are those who claim that the planing machine for instance, is no better to-day than

ten years ago, and hence is not liable to be improved upon to any great extent. In saw mill machinery there is room for improvement, noticeably in the direction of closer economy in the production of lumber. As our timber becomes scarcer these improvements will gradually assume shape.—*Wood Worker*.

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