

**CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.**

**ONTARIO.**

Orders for lumber have been a little more plentiful during the past week, but shipments have been retarded by scarcity of cars. Several manufacturers have a large number of orders waiting to be shipped out, which will reduce the stock of unsold lumber materially. Of a comparatively light stock in mill yards, there is less box and mill culls than other grades. The outlook for spring trade is considered satisfactory. The pine manufacturers are in some doubt as to the extent to which the demand will be curtailed through the presidential election in the United States, but apart from this factor there are no present nor prospective unfavorable conditions. It is expected that the home consumption will absorb almost the entire production of hardwood lumber, which as a result will be little affected by the conditions which may exist across the border. There seems to be a determination to endeavor to obtain an advance of one dollar per thousand feet for hemlock as compared with the prices which ruled in 1903. Logging has been very expensive and excessive depth of snow is resulting in a very light input of logs. In some sections of the Georgian Bay district there are four feet of snow on the level.

Information comes from Ottawa that Messrs. Sharples & Company have purchased the deal output of the mills of W. C. Edwards & Company and the Hawkesbury Lumber Company. The prices, as in previous sales, are said to represent an advance of 10 per cent. over those realized for the production of last year. In the Warton district as high as \$12 per thousand is being paid for maple logs. These circumstances point to a firm lumber market.

**QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.**

The customary dullness which generally marks this season in the lumber trade is quite pronounced in respect to spruce. No sales of deals for the British market are as yet reported, buyers being very cautious about entering into contracts until the course of events in Great Britain becomes more certain. Stocks carried by the mills, however, are lighter than one year ago; in some parts of Nova Scotia the yards are completely sold out. The log cut this winter is likely to be smaller than last season. On the Restigouche and Miramichi rivers the decrease is estimated at 20 per cent. Cedar will be very short in supply owing to the uncertainty of the United States market. Cedar shingles are barely steady, prices ranging from \$3.35 to \$3.45 for extras and \$2.85 to \$2.95 for clears, Boston delivery.

**UNITED STATES.**

Interest in white pine circles has centred upon the action of the price list committee of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association, which met last week to revise the list. In some quarters it was predicted that an advance would be made on several lines, including dimension timbers. However, a conservative policy was pursued and such advances as were decided upon were offset by reductions on other grades. The list as it now stands represents current selling prices. The advances were on No. 1 boards and products, 13 inch and wider, \$2 per thousand feet; 12 inch and wider, \$1. No. 1, 8-inch, 18 and 20 feet long, \$1.50; No. 2, 8-inch, 18 and 20 feet, \$1.50; small timbers, 12, 14 and 16 feet, 50 cents. Reductions were made on inch selects, C norway and thick

selects, also flooring and siding. Mixed and No. 2 lath were reduced 25 cents. A canvass of the situation showed that stocks of lumber on hand are practically the same in amount as at this time last year, but there is a scarcity of low grade boards. The curtailment in the log crop this winter will be about 20 per cent. and the majority of the large plants which operated night and day expect to run days only during the coming season. The present outlook is that there will be a large amount of building during the year, and many manufacturers and dealers believe that prices of lumber are likely to advance. Several important sales of white pine to be cut as soon as the mills resume operations are reported. A decline of about \$2 per thousand in the price of oak lumber is about the only change in the hardwood situation. There is a fair demand for elm, basswood and birch. Dealers are now accumulating stocks as fast as possible in anticipation of a brisk demand from consumers early in the spring. In the Saginaw valley a large supply of maple is reported.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

In Great Britain the new year has not opened auspiciously for the lumber trade. The uncertainty regarding the fiscal policy and the fear of war in the East are two factors not calculated to inspire confidence. On the other hand the stocks of lumber at the leading ports are not excessively large and in many cases are represented largely by the lower grades. These are frequently sold under the hammer and consequently the prices realized are apt to convey a wrong impression as to the current market prices for regular shipments. Spruce and pine deals are in the hands of firms who are financially able to hold for an indefinite period which fact has had much to do with the exceptional strength of these classes of lumber during the past few months. Ireland is taking considerable quantities of 9 inch spruce deals. White pine deals of best quality sold last year as high as £40 per standard. There has been a slight falling off from this figure, but prices are still high. As soon as the political situation becomes more settled there will no doubt be a revival in trade, in which lumber is likely to share to the full extent.

**STOCKS AND PRICES.**

Extensive logging operations are being carried on in the vicinity of Musquash, N. B.

The Standard Lumber Company, of Buffalo, reports a good trade in maple and plain red oak.

Log run maple is quoted in the Saginaw valley at \$17.50; ash, \$22; birch, \$19 to \$22; elm, \$21 to \$24; basswood, \$25 to \$27.

Sixty acres of timber lands in the parish of St. Mary, Kent county, N.B., were last week purchased from the Government by the M. McLachlin Company at \$129 per square mile.

The logs comprising part of the Higgins estate, Vancouver, B.C., were recently sold by auction to the Pacific Coast Lumber Company, who had already advanced money on them.

Men for the woods are becoming more plentiful and in consequence wages are coming down. Bushmen who a few months ago could command \$32 per month can now be engaged for \$28.

The Department of Railways and Canals at Ottawa will receive tenders up to February 20th for the supply of British

Columbia Douglas fir timber required for the Rideau canal this year.

Duncan Graham and G. B. Ferguson, of Renfrew, Ont., who purchased 25 square miles of timber limits at the recent timber sale in Toronto, have started a camp near North Bay and are taking out square timber.

C. K. Eddy & Sons, of Bay City, Mich., who own approximately 500,000,000 feet of pine timber in the Georgian Bay district, are not cutting any logs this winter, believing that the timber is a good asset to hold.

Slack cooperage stock prices are said to be slightly easier, although there is still a scarcity of No. 1 staves. Flour barrels are quoted at Buffalo at 50 cents for 6-hooped and 52½ cents for 8-hooped. Jobbers quote No. 1 dry elm flour barrel staves at \$13 and No. 2 at \$9.50; No. 1 basswood heading, 10½ cents; No. 2, 6 cents; coiled hoops, \$9.25 for 5½ feet and \$9.75 for 6 foot.

Calls for all kinds of hardwoods are increasing and the business shows a small gain over previous weeks, says the Mississippi Valley Lumberman. There has not been much disposition to take hold, and now that the holidays are over and the factories have a moderate number of orders on hand, they are inclined to take a little stock and start up factories. There is no pressure of any kind of stock on the market and the reverse condition prevails in most varieties.

**WHITE PINE PRICE LIST.**

The new price list on white pine adopted by the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association took effect January 6th, 1904. The prices are f.o.b. Minneapolis, based on the new standard grades. For joists, scantling, common boards, etc., the prices are:

**JOISTS, SCANTLING AND TIMBER, ROUGH.**  
 —2x4, 6 ft., \$11; 8 ft., \$14; 10 ft., \$15; 12, 14 and 16 ft., \$15; 18 and 20 ft., \$17; 2x6, 6 ft., \$13.50; 8 ft., \$14; 10, 12, 14 and 16 ft., \$15; 18 and 20 ft., \$17; 2x8, 6 ft., \$13.50; 8 ft., \$14; 10 to 16 ft., \$15; 18 and 20 ft., \$17; 2x10, 6 ft., \$13.50; 8 ft., \$14; 10 to 16 ft., \$15.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$17.50; 2x12, 6 ft., \$14.50; 8 ft., \$15; 10 ft., \$18; 12 and 14 ft., \$17.50; 16 ft., \$17; 18 and 20 ft., \$18.50; 2x14, 10 ft., \$19; 12 to 16 ft., \$17.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$20; 3x8 and 3x10, 10 ft., \$18; 12 to 16 ft., \$16; 18 and 20 ft., \$18.50; 3x12, 10 ft., \$18.50; 12 to 16 ft., \$17.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$19; 4x4 to 8x8, 10 ft., \$18; 12 to 16 ft., \$16.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$18.50. For No. 2 dimension deduct \$1.50 and for No. 3 dimension deduct \$3.  
**COMMON BOARDS, ROUGH.**—No. 1, 13 inch and wider, 12 to 16 ft., \$25; 18 and 20 ft., \$26; 12 inch, 10 ft., \$25.50; 12 to 16 ft., \$24; 18 and 20 ft., \$26.50; 10 inch, 10 ft., \$21.50; 12 ft., \$20.50; 14 to 16 ft., \$19.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$22.50; 8 inch, 10 ft.,

\$17.50; 12 and 14 ft., \$19.50; 16 ft., \$20; 18 and 20 ft., \$21. No. 2, 13 inch and wider, 12 to 16 ft., \$19; 12 inch, \$20.50; 18 and 14 ft., \$20; 16 ft., \$19; 20 ft., \$22.50; 10 inch, 10 and 12 ft., \$18; 14 and 16 ft., \$17; 18 and 20 ft., \$19.50; 8 inch, 10 ft., \$17.50; 12 ft., \$16.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$18; 3, 12 inch, 10 and 12 ft., \$17.50; 16 ft., \$16.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$18; 10 inch, 10 to 16 ft., \$15; 18 and 20 ft., \$15.50; 8 inch, 10 ft., \$14; 12 to 20 ft., \$15; 4 inch and wider, 10 ft., \$13.50; 12 ft., \$14.50. No. 4, 4 inch and wider, 6 to 20 ft., \$11.50. No. 3 and 4 inch width boards may contain not to exceed 10 per cent. of 4 inch and 20 per cent. of 6 inch. No 4 inch boards may contain not to exceed 25 per cent. of 6, 8 and 10 feet. For all white pine No. 1 and boards, all widths and lengths, add \$1 above prices.

**ONE INCH FINISHING,** 8 15 or 20.—First second and third clear, 12 inch, 10 ft., \$58.50; 10 inch, \$51.50; 8 inch, \$50.50; A select, 12 inch, \$55.50; 10 inch, \$50.50; B select, 12 inch, \$50.50; 10 and 8 inch, \$45.50; C select, 12 inch, \$45.50; 10 and 8 inch, \$39.50; D select, 12 inch and wider, \$34.50; 10 and 8 inch, \$29; D box, 13 inch and wider, \$38.50; D stock, 12 inch, \$31.50; 10 and 8 inch, \$27.50; C and better Norway, 8 inch and wider, \$25; Shop common, \$21.

**FOUR AND SIX INCH FLOORING.**—C floor, 8 and 10 ft., \$36; 12 to 20 ft., \$24; D flooring, 8 and 10 ft., \$26; 12 and 14 ft., \$29; 16 ft., \$30; 18 and 20 ft., \$29. Farmers Clear, 12 and 14 ft., \$29; 16 ft., \$30. Norway C and better, 12 and 14 ft., \$25; 16 ft., \$25.50; 18 and 20 ft., \$25.

**FOUR AND 6 INCH SIDING.**—B and better, 6 to 20 ft., \$27; C, \$23; D, \$19.50; E, \$12; C and better Norway, \$14.

**LATH.**—No. 1 white pine, \$3.50; mixed, \$2.75; No. 2, \$2.25; ½ fence lath, 4 ft., \$6.

**BROOM HANDLES**

If an enterprising man with supplies of cheap Spruce, Basswood or Poplar care to put in several machines to work broom handles we can take his output. Write in first instance to Empire, care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.

The special attention of any of our readers who may be on the lookout for timber properties is directed to the advertisement in this issue of mortgage sale of valuable mill, site, timber limits, etc., at Fesserton, Simcoe County, Ont. We understand that there is on this small limit a considerable quantity of valuable timber. The property is situated convenient to the North River so that supplies of timber might be brought down from points on the Georgian Bay.

**TELEGRAPH POLES WANTED**

We buy all lengths. Write us for prices and you will see that by cutting your Cedar into Poles it will net you more than you can get out of it in any other way.

**J. B. FARWELL & SON**  
 Successors to McCaffrey & Farwell,  
 Orillia, Ont. Oswego, N. Y.

**QUEBEC.**  
**H. R. GOODAY & CO.,**  
**LONDON.** **SPRUCE AND RED PINE EXPORTERS**  
**ENG.** **AGENTS**  
**FOY, MORGAN & CO.,**  
 104 and 106 Bishopsgate St. W. C. E.

**BULMER, McLENNAN & CO.**  
**WANTED:** Basswood, Birch, Hard Maple, Rock and Soft Elm Lumber  
 Office and Yard—571 Dorchester Street, MONTREAL, P. Q.  
 Telephone Mrs 388.  
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