

LUMBER TRADE REVIEW FOR 1879.

(From Messrs. Carbray & Routh's Report).

The year 1879 opened with the gloomiest prospects. Stocks at manufacturing and consuming points were larger than the year previous; intense depression in trade was well-nigh universal, and falling prices, even from the extreme low rates then prevailing, was the constant record of new business. Reaction had been looked for confidently through three seasons past, but, as year after year each one appeared more depressed than its immediate predecessor, manufacturers began almost to doubt whether there would ever be a return of genuine activity. So often had hopes and speculations for a rise proved abortive that 1879 found all thoroughly tired of looking forward for any such change, but ready to sell without bargaining to the first found purchaser, indeed, during the first half of the year, no sales on any terms were most noticeable effect. During this period not a single buyer from the United States appeared in the market, but, habituated to having their own way, they took advantage of the situation to make ruinously low offers on the independent principle of take it or leave it, and these were, so to speak, always accepted. In England, except for sorting-up lots, sacrificed lots, or that which was virtually about the same thing, consignment lots, there was practically no market.

Towards the latter part of the summer the recovery of trade in the United States began to send on more urgent buyers. Quality now seemed not so much an object as quantity, and not infrequently, in order to decide a transaction, an advance on previous quotations would be voluntarily offered. Manufacturers in turn were not slow to take advantage of the changed situation, and introduced further advances which had to be paid to move stocks in the fall. Quebec houses also showed willingness to buy for shipment, though at about old prices. In time pretty much everything in timber and deals was picked up, so that now but little either in deals or sawn lumber is in manufacturers' hands. The quantity of deals, both pine and spruce, at Quebec is estimated about half an average stock.

Square timber in first hands is reckoned about one-tenth the usual annual production, while the new supply is placed at about one-fifth the ordinary cut. The entire stock at Quebec is heavy—about two years' supply, if counted in feet—but is largely common and old, having remained in the coves for two years or more.

The year closes with great animation, lively competition amongst all classes of buyers, strong and advancing prices. The English market it must be admitted seems slow to recognize the change that has taken place and rightly appreciate the new position, but they are to this "manner born" and are proverbial for waiting until the last moment, when stocks are nearly exhausted, and then rushing in blindly to secure a share.

The cut of pine logs for 1880 is heavy. Prices must determine whether it is destined for the English or American markets. The shipments of pine deals were rather larger than the previous year, owing to heavy stock wintering over from 1878, but all passed out of manufacturers' hands at \$80 to \$85, and \$50 to \$55, and \$23 to \$27, according to character and specification, per Quebec standard (2,750 feet, B. M.) for first, second and third qualities respectively. Sales have already been made fixing present prices for new cuts at about \$100, \$67 and \$33. Pine boards did well towards the fall, changing hands quite freely and inducing no little excitement amongst United States buyers to secure all they could before the close of navigation.

The cut of spruce logs will be rather less than an average, though considerably larger than for 1878. Spruce deals, which have ranged from \$30 to \$33, \$19 to \$22, and \$16 to \$18 for the three qualities respectively, have been contracted for out of the new cut at \$34 to \$36, \$25 to \$27, and \$18 to \$20. There was a special flurry in spruce boards in the fall, owing to eager and continued American buying,

the effect of which was that in October fourth quality and culls sold at the same prices realized for good stocks in August, namely, \$6 to \$6.50 per thousand feet, B. M. Hemlock, though plentiful and cheap, and for some uses superior either to pine or spruce, is much neglected.

We append a table of the exports from the St. Lawrence for three years past, by which comparison may be made at a glance, and also a statement of spring and fall freight rates for 1879, essential to an understanding of the year's business.

EXPORTS FROM ST. LAWRENCE.

	1877	1878	1879
To United Kingdom:			
Timber mille cubic feet	22,425	12,000	10,500
Deals mille feet	250,462	190,000	199,000
Staves Pieces	4,000,000	1,750,000	1,500,000
To River Plate:			
Number Vessels	23	27	31
Pine and Spruce mille ft.	8,758	10,808	12,480
To West Coast South America:			
Number Vessels	3	4	2
Pine and Spruce mille ft.	1,492	1,918	1,465
To Portugal, Number Vessels	11	5	8
To Spain, do	7	1	1
To France, do	8	20	5
To Holland & Belgium, Number Vessels	7	3	3
To Germany, do	4	2	1
To Australia, do	3	3	1
To W. India, do	1	—	7
To Cape of Good Hope, Number Vessels	4	2	1

FREIGHTS.

	Spring, 1879	Fall, 1879
Lumber to River Plate, per mille feet	\$17	\$16.50
Lumber to West Coast S.A., per mille feet	\$16	\$15
Lumber to Australia, per 1980 feet B. M.	Nominally £5 10s to £6 5s	
Quebec to U. K.		
Timber per 50 cubic ft. stg	19s to 22s	25s to 30s
Deals, per 1980 ft B.M.	6s to 62s 6d	70s to 80s
Montreal to U. K.		
Deals, per 1980 ft B.M.	60s	65s
Phosphate as ballast	7s 6d to 10s	7s 6d to 10s
Grain direct port, per 480 lbs	5s	6s to 8s
Grain, Cork Co.	5s 3d	6s 6d to 8s 6d
Lumber by Canal. Average price during the season.		
Quebec or Ottawa to Burlington	\$1.40 to \$1.75	
Whitehall	1.50 "	2.00
Albany	2.75 "	3.50
New York	3.00 "	4.00
Montreal or Three Rivers to Burlington		
100 "	\$1.15 "	\$1.40
Whitehall	1.25 "	1.50
Albany	2.25 "	2.50
New York	2.50 "	3.00

—MONTREAL Journal of Commerce

Wood Working Machinery Applied to House Building.

A Model Steam Saw and Planing Mill and Door, Sash and Blind Factory.

CAR BUILDING AND CONTRACTING.

Lumber in every phase of its handling naturally finds itself conspicuous and well represented by Quebec firms. This great commodity has been in a measure the mainstay of the city's existence. It is therefore fitting that we should consider it in our comments of the general aspects of the wholesale trade. The immense productive power of wood-working machinery over the old methods of manual labor in shaping the various wood work which enters into the construction of our dwellings, can require at this day no illustration. As to the results in cheap manufactured building materials, we are indebted as much to the close application of practical workmen to the constant improvement of detail as to the inflexible law of demand and supply which is always safe to be co-extensive with the utility of the article required. The City of Quebec possesses an establishment in this line, with special reference to that of Simon Peters, located on the St. Charles River, with entrance to yards and mills at 52 Prince Edward street, which is inferior in its capacity for turning out a wide range of work to none in the Dominion, whilst its unsurpassed location for the receiving, shipping and handling of certain specialties ranks it at the head of the list in Lower Canada. The operations of Simon Peters embrace the entire range of builders and contractors requirements in manufactured lumber. The planing mills and adjoining buildings are substantially built of brick three stories in height, and cover nearly half an acre of ground: its well built exterior aspect and extreme neat appearance of its approaches impresses one at a glance with the idea of an edifice where operations of considerable magnitude are conducted. The lumber yards cover nearly three acres, whilst a slip in the rear facilitates the landing of the logs from

the River St. Charles, a few yards from the receiving entrance to the mill. The different departments are equipped with all the most modern improved machinery and plant for turning out the best work at very low rates. Here one sees in motion immense circular saws, which, driven by steam power, appear to divide the logs into boards with as little resistance as if they were moulds of soap. The band saw used in this mill is the largest in use in the Dominion, having a capacity for sawing logs as large as fifty inches in diameter. The visitor also notices, planing, sticking, tonguing, and grooving machine, band and scroll sawing, lathes, blind and sand papering machines, and every improved design of wood-working machinery. All these are used in the preparing of a variety of manufactures, such as entire wooden buildings, constructed in numbered sections, suitable for transportation, and admirably adapted for miners, farmers and settlers in new colonies and localities where lumber is scarce and which, like Manitoba or various sections of Australia, are being opened up to emigration. The building of railroad platform cars is another important line of industry carried on here. Here are also made sashes, doors, blinds, stairs, stair rails, mouldings, architraves, balustrades, newel posts, and every section of the interior of a house. None but skilled mechanics are employed. The proprietor, being also a large importer of lumber direct from the wooded regions, has unusual facilities for selecting the best materials. Here is also to be had sawn lumber of all kinds, flooring, deals, joists, &c., which are offered at quotations consistent with the extensive business connection of the house. The name of Mr. Simon Peters as a contractor has been identified with many of the large public and private undertakings which have been successfully carried through in Quebec and various other parts of the province. Perhaps the most noteworthy of all his contracts is that on which he is now engaged, viz., the Princess Louise dock and harbor improvements, which large contract he is carrying on in conjunction with the well-known American contracting firm of Messrs. Moore & Wright, the construction of all the wood work devolving on Mr. Simon Peters. That this great public work, which is calculated to be of such palpable benefit to the old city of Quebec, will be successfully carried through by these gentlemen, and will give eminent satisfaction to all concerned, their joint past record justifies us in forecasting. The fact of such a large undertaking being awarded to a citizen resident of Quebec proves the all-sufficiency of her capitalists to undertake her own improvements, and is an evidence of self-reliance on the part of the government which forbodes the inauguration of a more equitable policy towards our citizens in the award of public patronage to men who have proven themselves competent, under all circumstances, to accomplish what they undertake.

Tobacco Manufactured by Steam, Wholesale.

An enviable reputation for quality of product.

JOHN LEMESURIER.

Whilst the manufacturing enterprises of Quebec are somewhat limited in comparison with other cities of like proportion, an enquiry into some branches which are already established and in a flourishing condition shows that satisfactory returns are not lacking if capital, combined with experience and skill, is judiciously invested in any staple industry which has not hitherto been represented. The manufacture or, more accurately speaking, the processing and manipulation of the fragrant weed, as carried on at the factory of John Lemesurier, and the important position which the brands here produced now holds, both in the local and outside markets of this province, amply sustains this assertion. This factory consists of a fine modern structure four stories and basement in height, capped with mansard roof, and triangular in shape, with frontage from 153 to 157 St. Paul street, and having rear receiving and delivering entrances at 30 and 32 Canotterie Hill, and office and salesrooms at 150 St. Paul st. The isolated position of the building, which fronts V shaped on these two streets, gives it a conspicuous position and thoroughly business aspect. The interior of the building has been entirely remodelled and adapted to its present use. The first floor contains bonds and steam engine

room, and is also used as shipping and store rooms, and for general warehouse purposes. The entire space of the upper three flats is given to the different processes of the manufacture. All the most modern machinery and plant, and the newest approved appliances invented for despatch and efficiency in the preparation of tobacco are noticeable in each department throughout while a force varying from 80 to 100 operatives are employed, each department containing its foremen, skilled in the work they conduct. Tobacco is here put up in every style known to smokers, as well as a range of brands of snuff of various prices and degrees of fineness which are in high favor with consumers in all parts of the country. The tobacco products consist of a lengthy catalogue of varieties and specialty mixtures in fine cut for chewing and smoking, bright and dark plugs and twist for smoking, and black chewing in plugs. The Pain-killer tobaccos, which is the most extensive line produced at this factory, are in growing popularity for their uniformity in quality and flavor. No compounds deleterious to health enter into the black plug tobaccos here produced. Each package leaving the warehouse is composed of the choicest select leaf carefully handled in every process. The raw leaf is bought in large lots direct, through brokers in the American markets from the Southern planters, and this, joined to a thorough close supervision of every department of the manufacture by Mr. John Lemesurier in person, enables him to quote prices which should command the attention of traders who handle tobaccos in any quantity. The plug tobaccos are packed in well-seasoned and hardwood boxes, most tastefully branded and labelled, ranging in weight from 10, 18 to 25 and 30 lbs. each, whilst the cut tobaccos are put in neat wooden pails and barrels for shipment. Orders by mail and postal communications receive prompt attention, and price lists sent free on demand. The founder of this enterprise, and active proprietor, is Mr. John Lemesurier, senior, who is well known in Quebec circles as a leading citizen and an energetic advocate in support of every question that affected the welfare of the old city, in recognition of which he was elected by the citizens to the position of mayor, which he held for the term of 1868 and 1869. We would state that the general wholesale tobacco trade is carried on by his sons, respectively, Henry, John, and William Lemesurier, who give constant attention to the promotion of business in his department of trade. Mr. John Lemesurier, senior, who is the proprietor of the tobacco manufactory, deserves credit for being the first to embark upon a scale of importance in this industry east of Montreal; and it is to be hoped that the encouragement which he has so far received in face of strong outside competition, and the trying era of depression through which he has successfully passed, will be portentous of the large trade which will grow to his enterprise during the better epoch for Quebec on which we are entering.

THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

A desire on our part to comply with the mandate, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," compels us to award to our contemporary, *The Montreal Journal of Commerce*, a high place as a business newspaper in Canada. Its fresh and pithy budget of crisp news items and ably written reviews upon the public questions which affect commerce are read with interest every week by thousands of storekeepers and wholesale merchants throughout the towns and cities of the Dominion, who all concur with us that the journal is of great convenience to them as a safe and reliable reference. Its quotations, reports of the general wholesale markets and bank stock are comprehensive and well revised; its record of weekly failures, fire losses, new business inaugurated, and its impartial and independent criticisms upon the individual doings of the wholesale and retail trade fraternity and insurance institutions, exert a beneficial influence on all concerned. In a word, the *Journal of Commerce* is fully up to the mark as a trade newspaper, and, whilst its present circulation is the largest regular one of any in the country, it deserves steadily to increase, as no merchant who wishes to keep pace with the business exigencies of our day can afford to remain without it. Subscription, \$2 per year.

House doctors are all alike. Their liniments greatly resemble each other.

FATHER, (who is always trying to teach his son how to act while at table)—"Well, John, you see, that when I have finished eating I always leave the table." JOHN—Yes, sir; and that is all you do leave."