

very few exceptions, are part of the public domain. It will be interesting to study the Canadian system on the spot, and every facility for doing so will be afforded the association. The result cannot fail to strengthen the hands of the American Forestry Association in its endeavors to protect the forest wealth of this Continent, and we have no doubt but earnest and useful work will be done by the Convention.

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A COMPANY is now being formed in England for the purpose of acquiring some 50,000 acres of timber land situated on the Bay of Fonseca, in Spanish Honduras. This land is covered with virgin forest of mahogany, cedar, fustic and logwood and is to be purchased outright by the company who purpose to fell the timber and market it in European and American markets. It is estimated that the forests will last over twenty years, and as the land is cleared it is proposed to plant rubber and orange trees.

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A dastardly attempt was made on the night of Aug. 27th to fire the lumber yards at Tonawanda, N. Y. No less than eleven fires were started within the period of twenty-four hours, all presumed to be of incendiary origin. The Lumber Association has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the incendiary. Dodge's planing mills, Kent's, Hollister's, Bass & Co., and Holland Bros' lumber yards where set on fire, also J. S. Bliss' shingle factory, and twice cars on the Central tracks were set a fire.

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W. HUME CLAY, a prominent young lumber merchant of Winchester, Ky., disappeared from his home a short time ago. A short time after his departure a number of protested notes turned up, and more recently it has transpired that a number of forgeries had been committed. The amount of forgeries is estimated at over \$100,000. Young Clay lost about \$13,000 booming lots in Winchester last spring, and is said to have dropped a pile on other booms. All his property has been attached.

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NEW BRUNSWICKERS got out an unusually large supply of logs last winter, and this summer they are cutting large quantities of lumber, despite the slack foreign demand. They evidently have faith in the early resumption of the English demand. There are already some signs to be noted indicating an improvement in the trade of the United Kingdom. Shipbuilding on the east coast of England is showing signs of increased activity, and when the yards on the Clyde begin brisking up prices will be apt to advance.

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IT is a remarkable fact that while the lumber trade of the Ottawa Valley is in a very depressed state, the Georgian Bay lumber mills are running full time and doing an excellent business. This is largely accounted for from the fact that the Ottawa lumbermen depend to a considerable extent upon the British and South American markets, which are depressed at the present time, while the Georgian Bay mill owners, manufacture largely for the American market. The Georgian Bay mill owners have sent word to Ottawa that a large number of the men out of employment there can be provided with work in that region.

HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE REVIEW.

Office of CANADA LUMBERMAN, }  
Aug. 30th, 1890.

The local trade continues dull and the movement of stocks is limited. There are signs, however, of improvement, but it is not noticeable to any great extent. Prices remain unchanged. Trade in the West is very good, although we have not heard of the purchase of any very large stocks, buyers confining themselves mainly to ordering for immediate requirements. An increased demand for lumber is confidently looked for, as the harvest crops are good and as the farmers in Ontario for the last few years have done but little in repairing, extending or building, it is expected they will take advantage of the situation and make necessary improvements.

The stagnation in the Ottawa lumber trade still continues on account of the South American markets

being temporarily cut off and the slackness of the English trade. The shipping of lumber from the Chaudiere by rail is becoming more lively, as the cars on the Canadian Pacific and the Canada Atlantic Railways are being loaded as fast as they can be supplied. Some large orders are being reported from the United States, the Bronson, Weston Company having received one from the Oswego Lumber Company that will keep them busy shipping inch lumber for some time to come. The Oswego company utilizes the lumber by making boxes for the American Standard Oil Company. The prospective termination of the troubles in South America has a tendency to restore confidence in the revival of trade, and should there be no other outbreak it will not be long before orders for lumber will be coming in from that source. In the meantime the labor market at Ottawa is overstocked, and is likely to remain so for some time to come, as the quantity of timber taken out this winter will be comparatively small. Wages this winter will not be what they were last year. It is not expected they will exceed the following:—General hands from \$12 to \$15 per month; axe men, about \$15 to \$18; hewers, \$26 to \$30; scorers and liners, \$20 a month. It is most likely that there will be an increased local demand this fall, as reports collected from various centres in Canada indicate that the stocks are very low. In most yards the dealers have been living from hand to mouth in the expectation of fluctuations which have not occurred.

The timber and deal trade at Quebec is in a very depressed state, and holders of timber feel rather anxious about present prospects. The lumbermen are not trying to force sales, as they feel it is useless to try and sell until there is a better demand. A raft of Ottawa timber, about 44½ feet average, is reported to have been sold at the low figure of 24 cents, which is a great falling off in price since last year. In deals there is nothing doing, although some lots of spruce are reported to have been sold at prices considerably under contracting price of last autumn. A number of rafts are lying in the booms unsold, the holding of which will entail considerable loss upon the owners, as the boomage dues mount up quickly, and will have to be paid. The banks generally take the timber as a kind of collateral security, but this year they refuse to do so. It is stated that Mr. R. H. Klock has taken out more square timber than any other man, six or seven rafts of which are still lying in the booms awaiting a market. It is generally conceded that there is a slight improvement in the markets of Great Britain, but the South American market for the time being is literally dead.

The following is a comparative statement of timber, masts, bowsprits, staves, &c., measured and culled at Quebec to date:—

	1888	1889.	1890.
Waney White Pine.....	1,214,623	2,715,695	2,868,730
White Pine ..	815,682	3,373,065	2,127,792
Red Pine.....	283,914	905,404	97,808
Oak.....	732,624	928,692	843,036
Elm.....	166,434	705,430	486,055
Ash.....	110,587	226,829	92,787
Basswood.....		2,495	415
Butternut.....	419	1,501	2,031
Tamarac.....	1,324	7,135	7,825
Birch & Maple	126,819	365,913	163,377
Masts & Bowsprits.....			
Spars.....		33 pieces	
Sid. Staves....	19.0.3.10	49.7.2.2.	5.5.2.7
W. I. Staves..	319.2.1.26	58.9.3.16	
Brl. Staves....	13.3.3.25	1.1.0.1	

FOREIGN.

Late advices from London indicate a steady improvement in the hardwood trade, the volume of business being done giving no cause for complaint. Prices of almost all descriptions are reported firm, some kinds having a tendency rather to harden than otherwise. Recent arrivals of American black walnut have been fairly numerous, the logs arriving being of much better proportions and more convertible in character. This better class of stuff is readily disposed of and brings fair prices.

Arrivals at Liverpool have been quite large during the month. An immense amount, both of timber and deals, have arrived, a large portion of which was constantly going into consumption. Competition is re-

ported as being keen, and prices are consequently cut fine. The import last August of spruce, including 6,000 stds. from Quebec district, amounted to nearly 30,000 stds. Up to the present time, says *Timber*, the import this month has only reached 6,000 stds., and from all the particulars we can gather the further arrivals will not exceed 6,000 more, this must tell, and we believe that the stock next issued will show that the position of this article is very much strengthened, at the same time, prices are ruling very low, and on those cargoes which were purchased early in the year and were not sold there must be a considerable loss.

There has been a slight improvement in trade at Glasgow, although prices remained at the same low level which has characterized them for the last few months. American spruce was not going off well, as against the low prices ruling for north of Europe importations. Some sales have been made in Quebec timber of new import, but the aggregate is reported as being disappointing. The demand in hardwood is reported as being good, as the stock in first hands is low. Walnut is in request especially prime wood. Birch and ash have been in good demand and stocks are pretty well depleted.

BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The official returns furnished by the Board of Trade show a considerable falling off in the importations of wood goods of all descriptions as compared with the corresponding month last year, Mahogany excepted. From all countries the importation of sawn lumber is less by 87,351 lds., the quantities being 834,605 lds. in July this year, as against 921,956 lds. the same month last year. There has also been a falling off in hewn goods, the figures being 274,052 lds. in July last year, against 262,942 lds. in July the present year, a difference of 11,110 lds. In sawn goods from the Baltic ports there is a diminution of no less than 117,948 lds., 40,110 lds. from Sweden (321,270 lds., as against 361,380 lds.) and 67,838 lds. short from Russia—219,532 lds., against 287,370 lds. Sawn goods from the United States and Canada, on the other hand, are considerably in excess of those imported during July last year, the excess from the latter amounting to over 40,000 lds. With regard to hewn goods there are increases of about 11,000 lds. from Germany, the quantities from all the other timber importing countries being less.

The returns for the seven months, ending July 31st, 1889 and 1890, give an increase for the present year on hewn wood, but a decrease in the quantities of sawn, the difference amounting to 54,976 in hewn and 181,125 loads less in sawn, thus taking the two together, there is a decrease this year of 126,149 loads of wood goods.

EXCHANGE ECHOES.

Southern Lumberman.

The Southern saw-mill owners are prosperous and in better financial shape than ever before, and the future is bright indeed. Southern lumber of all kinds is in better demand and prices are higher than for several years. Timber possessions were secured at low prices and are enhancing in value rapidly. New manufacturing enterprises of every character are starting up, old and new towns are growing at an astonishing rate, the farmers are building to an extent never before known, and the home demand for lumber is active. Oak, yellow pine, gum, and many other varieties of hardwoods are plentiful and practically untouched, and the mills will continue in successful operation for a number of years.

Timberman.

Down in New Brunswick they are cutting large quantities of lumber this summer, notwithstanding the slack foreign demand. They seem to have faith in the resumption of the English demand in the not far distant future. In point of fact there are already some signs to be noted indicating that the bottom has been reached in the trade of the United Kingdom, and the turn may soon come. Shipbuilding on the east coast of England is brisking up, and when the yards on the Clyde resume their full measure of activity look out for a rise in timber.

—A firm of saw mill owners at Fort William, have written to Mayor Erratt, of Ottawa, stating that they wish to hire mill hands at the rate of \$1.75 a day, with steady work all winter in the shanties. They offer to advance fares from Ottawa to Vermillion Bay, near which place the mills are situated.