

HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE REVIEW.

Office of CANADA LUMBERMAN,
July 31st, 1889.

The month of July is always quiet. "Quiet" is the word that describes the local trade of Toronto at the present time, and the same may be said of Ontario also. House building in Toronto is not being pushed to anything like the same extent as in former years, and this may be expected for the remainder of the season. There are no changes to note in either price or sale. Yard stocks are fairly large; but dealers are buying cautiously and there is no tendency to overbuy. Prices generally are still being maintained, as dry lumber at the mills is rapidly becoming scarce, and the new cut has not commenced to move.

Good lumber is rather slow of sale, and there seems to be no prospect of immediate improvement. United States buyers report the yards overstocked with good lumber.

Shingles are plentiful and prices are down for any but high class and well known brands.

Lath are not much in demand at present.

The usual blockade on the Grand Trunk has been in force occasioning great annoyance and inconvenience to the lumber dealers.

There is a slight improvement in the movement of lumber stocks in the Ottawa district. Prices are practically unchanged. Cheaper grades of Pine, especially box, are moving more freely than the other grades. Ash is quiet, as the furniture men are not doing much. Pine and Cedar shingles are moving slowly with frequent shading of prices, as Michigan has a large stock. Canal freights show no change, but with the movement of the crops will no doubt advance.

At Montreal, transactions in lumber have been confined to small lots; but prices have mainly ruled steady. Offerings of car lots have been frequent, and a disposition has been manifested in some quarters to force sales even by making a cut in prices. Contractors appear to be in no disposition to buy, saying they have ample stocks for their requirements. About all that is doing is to supply immediate wants.

At Quebec, early in the month, trade was quiet, the few rafts still for sale were held for higher rates, and owing the scarcity and high rates of tonnage few sales were made. The feeling in England seems to be good, though some houses complain that they are offered low rates for first quality Pine Deals. Business interests have suffered to some extent on account of the staff of cullers being reduced, last winter's cut of lumber being treble that of previous years.

Within the past two weeks there has been greater activity in the trade. A number of Ottawa rafts have changed hands at unprecedented prices. Mr. Robert Booth's Nipissing raft, containing 70,000 feet Square White Pine, 62 feet average, and 21,000 feet Wane Pine, 22 inches average, sold at 40½ cents to Messrs. Smith, Wade & Co. Mr. Edward Skead's Rouge raft, containing 33,000 feet Wane Pine, 21 inches average, and 10,000 feet Square White Pine, 46 feet average, sold at equal to 41½ cents all round to the same firm. With every allowance for the fine quality of these parcels such figures have never previously been paid for Ottawa rafts. Messrs J & G Bryson also sold a parcel of large average Square White Pine at 43 cents. Oak in the dram has been sold at 50 cents.

Steamers are rapidly supplementing sailing vessels in the Quebec timber trade. Ocean freights: Transactions are reported, Quebec to Liverpool, Timber, 28s @ 29s; Quebec to Greenock, 27s 6d @ 28s 6d; Quebec to Cardiff, 26s; Montreal to London or Liverpool, Deals, 67s 6d.

Lumber shipments from St. John to Great Britain and the United States have been very large.

FOREIGN.

Business at London and on the coast has been rather quiet during the month. Buyers in general are not disposed to purchase under the impression that free-on-board prices are likely to give way in the autumn. With few exceptions, sellers have succeeded in clearing their entire stocks for the season, and the specifications now in hand of agents are few.

The loss sustained by the burning of the Surrey

Commercial Docks, on July 5th, is estimated at 1,400 standards of deals, battens and floorings.

Canadian rates kept firm at 67s 6d, from Miramichi to west coast of England, and 70s from Montreal.

Messrs. Denny, Mott & Dickson's wood circular, under date of July 11th, says:—

An instalment by steamer of the new season stock of Canadian timber came to hand last month. The elm and yellow pine should have been very welcome on a bare market, but considerable disappointment has been caused by some of the shipment having fallen short of the expected quality. Prices for both oak and elm are easier, but yellow pine, both square and wane, remain firm.

PITCH PINE TIMBER.—In the beginning of the year, Stocks of both hewn and sawn logs were well nigh exhausted; but fully two months before the usual time, large supplies were brought forward by steamers which followed one another in rapid succession; and, as a consequence, the Dock ponds, which previously presented an abnormally bare appearance, were speedily filled. A noteworthy fact is that, as steamers have as a rule no portholes, the cargo averages have been under 35 feet cube, or in cases where this useful average has been observed, the logs have mostly been under 35 feet in length, and of 14 inches and upwards square; the desirable sizes of 36 to 46 feet long, and 12 to 13 inches square being therefore scarce, command good prices, but for other sizes trade continues dull, with excessive stocks. Freights, however, still run high, and there is no immediate prospect of much fall in values.

FIR TIMBER.—Deliveries have somewhat improved, but trade is still unsatisfactory, being in great part held in check by the prices demanded for parcels held for shippers' account. Small wood is rather lower, but full average cargoes are held very firmly in spite of large stocks and slow demand. Best timber remains scarce.

Messrs. Farnsworth & Jardine, under date of July 11th, advise us that the arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 37 vessels, 40,201 tons, against 30 vessels, 28,173 tons, during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1887, 1888 and 1889 has been 115,536, 128,982, and 154,453 tons respectively. Business, generally, has been satisfactory throughout the month, imports have been large but prices are steady, and stocks of most articles are moderate. Canadian Woods, Quebec—Yellow pine timber, several parcels of wane and square have arrived by steamer; the demand has not been active, and it is most difficult to realise the high cost of importation. Red pine has not been enquired for; the stock is sufficient. Oak has been imported too freely, and chiefly inferior quality from the Southern United States ports, and for this class of wood there has been a serious decline in value; indeed, at the moment it is almost unsaleable; several large parcels have been stored, and the stock is much too heavy. Oak planks still continue to arrive too freely, and, although the demand has been fair, stocks are too heavy, and prices have a downward tendency. Elm has been imported moderately; there has been a little more enquiry, but the value is unchanged. Ash—The import has consisted of a parcel of United States wood of inferior quality, which realised a low price; the demand is dull, and the stock is heavy. Pine deals—The arrivals have been chiefly on contract, and have gone freely into consumption; there is no change in value to report, and the stock is ample. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia spruce and pine deals—Of spruce the import has been heavy, viz., 14,036 standards against 7,056 standards last year, and 2,718 standards in the previous one; the deliveries continue good, and most of the arrivals are going direct from the quay, as is usual in the early part of the season; prices are steady, and the stock moderate; the arrivals have again been chiefly by steamers. Pine deals—Several parcels have arrived from Miramichi on contract, and have been in fair demand.

American Black Walnut is in fair demand. The better grades of quality being mostly in request. The yards are fully stocked with inferior descriptions, and move off slowly. In American whitewood there is a good demand and inferior stocks are moving off better.

There is a steady demand for American white oak at fully maintained prices. Logs are not so saleable as lumber.

BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The total values of the imports to the United Kingdom during June amounted to £39,294,015, against £30,478,854 imported in June last year, showing a decrease of £1,184,839. The exports for the same month are valued at £18,612,206, the total value for June of last year being £19,042,845, showing a falling off in the exports of £430,339.

The importation of wood shows a steady increase in the totals. The month of June shows an increase on hewn timber from all the chief places except Germany, from which place a heavy supply was received during the two previous months. On the six months the import from that country gives an increase on last year's shipment of 23,899 loads. On sawn and split wood the increase is, for the month, Russia 38,938 loads, Sweden and Norway 73,801 loads, and the United States 3,491 loads, the only decrease being in the Canadian import, which is less by 306 loads than June of last year.

The total importation for June shows an increase of 17.4 per cent. compared with June 1888, while the value gives an increase of 32.9 for the same period. This large increase in value is sufficiently explained by the fact that present prices are much higher than those ruling twelve months ago.

On sawn and split goods Russia shows an increase of 107,302 loads, on the six months, Sweden and Norway 199,733 loads, United States 53,787 loads, and Canada, an increase for the six months of 21,752 loads, the total increase on last year's import from the countries named amounting to 382,574 loads.

The following are the official returns of the import of wood goods for the month of June 1888 and 1889, compared, and for the six months ending June 30th, 1888 and 1889, compared.

Month ending June 30th.

| | QUANTITY. | | VALUE. | |
|--|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1888. | 1889. | 1888. | 1889. |
| Timber (Hewn) | Loads | Loads | £ | £ |
| Russia..... | 27,732 | 36,019 | 40,492 | 64,917 |
| Sweden and Norway | 59,622 | 49,132 | 69,503 | 69,092 |
| Germany..... | 40,010 | 22,435 | 95,009 | 63,509 |
| United States..... | 17,661 | 19,262 | 65,771 | 79,392 |
| British E. Indies | 1,041 | 939 | 11,224 | 11,532 |
| British North America | 2,951 | 8,378 | 10,392 | 48,333 |
| Other Countries | 35,527 | 43,568 | 45,373 | 45,629 |
| Total..... | 184,591 | 179,733 | 337,764 | 373,404 |
| Timber (Sawn or Split, Planed or dressed.) | | | | |
| Russia..... | 119,749 | 158,157 | 227,403 | 350,343 |
| Sweden & Norway | 179,291 | 253,092 | 374,632 | 608,162 |
| United States..... | 40,641 | 44,132 | 110,073 | 139,338 |
| British North America | 99,148 | 68,842 | 252,920 | 205,945 |
| Other Countries..... | 10,103 | 9,445 | 26,691 | 20,742 |
| Total..... | 448,492 | 563,688 | 988,328 | 1,388,830 |
| Staves (all sizes)..... | 11,925 | 11,818 | 59,670 | 66,036 |
| Mahogany (tons)..... | 4,055 | 1,118 | 59,356 | 21,428 |
| Total of Hewn and Sawn | 633,086 | 743,431 | 1,326,092 | 1,762,214 |

Six Months ending June 30th.

| | QUANTITY. | | VALUE. | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1888. | 1889. | 1888. | 1889. |
| Timber (Hewn). | Loads | Loads | £ | £ |
| Russia..... | 39,800 | 74,711 | 62,712 | 138,499 |
| Sweden and Norway.... | 240,129 | 293,573 | 300,803 | 423,077 |
| Germany..... | 90,122 | 114,021 | 312,304 | 312,232 |
| United States..... | 58,529 | 65,998 | 233,920 | 276,237 |
| British E. Indies..... | 14,885 | 26,192 | 172,275 | 305,680 |
| British North America | 4,411 | 11,912 | 15,259 | 59,595 |
| Other Countries..... | 251,348 | 300,601 | 245,483 | 345,922 |
| Total..... | 999,724 | 887,098 | 1,242,150 | 1,861,553 |
| Timber (Sawn or Split, Planed or Dressed). | | | | |
| Russia..... | 154,935 | 262,240 | 288,552 | 576,039 |
| Sweden & Norway..... | 440,205 | 645,928 | 929,956 | 1,528,592 |
| United States..... | 131,050 | 154,840 | 353,315 | 585,189 |
| British North America | 177,236 | 109,038 | 403,150 | 511,282 |
| Other Countries..... | 38,312 | 59,255 | 102,702 | 168,085 |
| Total..... | 947,794 | 1,351,311 | 2,082,695 | 3,378,955 |
| Staves (all sizes)..... | 45,770 | 57,646 | 234,002 | 265,355 |
| Mahogany (tons)..... | 24,453 | 20,304 | 221,180 | 180,470 |
| Total of Hewn & Sawn | 1,047,518 | 2,238,319 | 3,325,431 | 5,210,580 |

OUR TIMBER EXPORTS TO BRITAIN.

The following cargoes of Canadian wood have been reported at various United Kingdom ports since our last issue:

ABERDEEN.—Sago, Quebec, 40 pcs. hewn oak, 54 pcs. hewn elm, 161 pcs. hewn birch, 20 pcs. hewn ash, 242 pcs. wane pine, 6,588 pine deals, 1,182 ends.

AYR.—Norway, Quebec, 638 pcs. hewn fir, 3,061 deals. Hjelstad, Halifax, 11,192 deals.

BARROW.—Hoverton, St. John, 70,106 boards and ends.

BELFAST.—Capenhurst, Miramichi, 19,161 deals and ends.

City of Adelaide, Miramichi, 25,992 deals, 8,500 palings.

Norman, Miramichi, 28,129 deals, ends and scantlings.

12,000 palings. Lothair, Miramichi, 19,808 deals and ends.

Assunna, Miramichi, 26,122 deals and ends, 1,200 palings.