

(ANNUAL CIRCULAR.)

Quebec, 20th December, 1861.

At the close of another export year, we beg to forward you our annual returns of the Supply, Export and Stock of timber, with prices current, &c., at this port, for the year ending the 1st December, inst.

WHITE PINE.—Stocks on hand of this article are, of square 7,971,030 and waney, 6,346,602 feet, and now that this latter description of timber has risen into importance as an article of export, we would recommend shippers for another season, to enter it separately in their clearances, as without this, it will be impossible to keep any separate statistics on hand regarding this quality of wood. The supply of White Pine was late in coming forward in the spring, owing to the excess of water in the streams, but this circumstance did not add a corresponding buoyancy to our market from the fact of Shippers having been well supplied from stocks wintering: With such a stock of waney board timber on hand we might almost deem it superfluous to recommend curtailment in the supply of this wood for another season, but we are glad to find that there is a prospect of very little being brought forward, and what has been shipped from our market this season, we may say without fear of contradiction excels in both size and quality what has been hitherto exported to Great Britain from any quarter of the globe. The stock wintering of square is below an average one, and but a moderately small quantity remains to winter in first hands. We would recommend Producers next season to continue to pay particular attention both in the *selection* of the *standing timber* and to *superior manufacture* as attention to these points is absolutely indispensable, to protect the shipper from losses by Culls, and dressing into shipping order, (which is not unfrequently a serious item), and is essentially necessary to maintain the character of this article. The prospects for another season for this, (in common with our other products), seems to depend as much upon what turn political events may take, as upon the usual criterion of supply and demand.

RED PINE.—The stock wintering is 2,707,199, against 2,649,157, last year, and although this article has been dull of sale throughout the whole season, it has been pretty well worked off, and is now almost all in second hands. The stock does not warrant manufacture except on a limited scale, and we would recommend producers to bring nothing under 40 feet average and of prime manufacture.

HARDWOODS.—OAK AND ELM.—The stock on hand of Oak is 958,627 against 1,348,477 feet last year, and Elm 793,761 against 1,068,854. The supply of Oak although exceeding that of last year, has been less than an average one, and good and superior lots have been placed at fair prices, an improvement in the manufacture is perceptible over previous years. Elm after being dull most of the season experienced a revival towards the close and the stock being sensibly reduced, we may reasonably look forward to a fair demand next spring; the supply has been of good quality, and as a whole, we may say, excels that of former years.