

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The Alma Lumber Company, of Alma, N. B., are shipping deals to St. John this winter. Donald Fraser & Sons, of Fredericton, N. B., have just received a large order for box shooks from Glasgow, Scotland.

Robert Moore has a gang of 300 men at work in the woods near Loch Lomond, N. B., getting out logs for the Mispic pulp mill at St. John.

The Department of Interior, Ottawa, desires tenders by February 20th for a permit to cut timber on Berth No. 834, in the district of Alberta, N. W. T.

John L. Peck, of Hillsboro, N. B., has purchased the McRae property at Memel. Mr. Peck expects to get out over 600,000 feet of logs this winter.

R. McLean, of Kaslo, B. C., has lately returned from a trip up the Kootenay river. While absent he contracted for 2,000,000 feet of logs for the Kootenay Lake saw mill.

The Snider Lumber Company, of Gravenhurst, Ont., are taking out this winter, for next season's sawing, 4,500,000 feet of hemlock, 500,000 feet of pine, and 500,000 feet of hardwood.

An Orillia exchange states that the Arthur Hill Company, of Saginaw, Mich., have purchased the timber limits of Doolittle & Caswell, of Orillia, the consideration being in the neighborhood of \$100,000.

It is expected that the present season will be one of the best the lumbermen of Maine have experienced in several years. The cut on the Kennebec waters will be about 125,000,000 feet, an increase over that of 1897 of 24,000,000 feet.

Messrs. A. McPherson & Company, of Longford Mills, Ont., have on hand about 1,300,000 feet of lumber at Ravensworth, and 1,700,000 feet at Longford Mills. The stock of shingles at these two points is 723 M and 2,000 M respectively.

The High Commissioner at London, Eng., has received a communication from a London paper agent who desires to open up correspondence with Canadian paper and pulp mills. He has also received an inquiry from Dresden for the names and addresses of exporters of wood pulp.

At a recent auction sale held by Foy, Morgan & Co., London, England, Canadian goods sold as follows: Spruce, ex Carham, from Quebec, 13-16 feet, 3 x 9 inch, 4th quality, £6 15s.; 12 feet, 3 x 9 inch, £6 10s. Pine, ex Hazelmoor, from Quebec, 16 feet, 3 x 11 inch, 1st bright white, £18 10s.

From Bangor, Maine, comes the report that 140,000,000 feet of logs will be cut on the Penobscot waters this winter. This, with the 30,000,000 to 40,000,000 feet being wintered over for early spring sawing, will give a stock sufficient for all demands. It is anticipated that there will be a considerable demand from Porto Rica and Cuba for second growth pine, known as shippers, as well as for spruce

Concerning the Liverpool market, our contemporary, Timber, says: In harmony with the general expectation, the sheet issued on the 31st December shows that the consumption during December has been very good, being considerably more in most lines than the corresponding month in last year, the two exceptions being birch and spruce deals. In Quebec square and waney board pine the consumption has been 69,000 feet, against 55,000 feet last year, leaving the stock at 225,000 feet, a much lighter stock than at the same period of last year and 1896. In Canadian and United States oak the consumption has been 156,000 feet, against additions to stock of 130,000 feet, thus reducing the stock by 26,000 feet during the month. In spruce deals the consumption has been 3,850 stds., as compared with the arrivals of 1,750 stds., and the stock is 14,950 stds., against 20,958 stds. last year. In pine deals the consumption has been about the same as in the corresponding month last year, but the import has been several hundred standards in excess of last year, and the stock is heavy.

BUSINESS NOTES.

The assets of W. I. Storey, lumber and planing mill, Ottawa, were advertised to be sold on the 16th inst.

Jane and John Playfair have registered proprietors of the business of J. Playfair & Son, lumber merchants, Baldur, Man.

Owing to the death of the late Robert Thomson, the firm of Robert Thomson & Co., Windsor, Ont., has been dissolved. The remaining partner, Mr. William J. Pulling, has acquired the assets and good will, and will continue the business under the name of Wm. J. Pulling & Company.

THE AUSTRALIAN LUMBER MARKET.

Messrs Fraser & Company, of Melbourne, Australia, in their monthly report of the 15th ultimo, say:

The demand has been fairly steady within the past few weeks, and business has been more or less arranged in mostly every class of timber which is shipped to this market, none of which is in short supply with the exception of good Baltic red deals, and which have been further dealt in "to arrive" at satisfactory prices from a cargo now fully due. Last valuations for other kinds have been about maintained, though latterly a slight downward tendency in prices has occurred in the descriptions more generally consumed, but as the trade are holders of fair stocks bought out of previous shipments, there is no desire at the moment to enter largely into further supplies even at lower rates. Therefore it has been necessary to place meanwhile into the storage yards some proportion of the cargoes which have arrived during the past four weeks. At the close of the year, buyer's operations are not as a rule of an extensive character, but at the opening of a new year considerable improvement in the demand is generally shown, and as there is every prospect of a busy season in all our productions during the next few months, country inquiries will probably be on the increase, and a material change for the better both in respect to the volume of business and values generally may be anticipated.

SPRUCE AND BALTIC WHITE DEALS.—Imports: 2,368,979 superficial feet. Arrivals: Gratia, from St. John; Bayard, from Quebec; Himalaya, from San Francisco. Buyers are almost fully stocked for the present, and efforts made to effect sales from the above shipments have not yet been successful. We quote 256d. to 27d. per foot of 9 x 3 as full market value. With supplies "to arrive," stocks will be found ample to meet all wants for some time to come.

OREGON PINE.—Imports: 2,569,961 feet super. Arrivals: Veritas and Gladys, from Chemainus, B. C.; Carrier Dove, from Puget Sound. The above-named shipments per Veritas and Carrier Dove have gone into the yards of the importers; but the cargo per Gladys is being offered to the trade upon the basis of £5 10s. per 1000 feet for an average assortment of sizes, without, however, leading to operations being concluded. The bulk of the shipment is therefore being stored until such time as buyer's stocks are reduced to a limit as will enable them to entertain further purchases. After the New Year business in Oregon is likely to be more active.

TIMBER TRADE OF THE CLYDE.

The yearly timber circular of Messrs. Edmiston & Mitchell, Glasgow, Scotland, reviews the timber trade of the Clyde at some length. It shows that during 1898 the total import was 312,000 loads, a decrease of 25,000 loads as compared with the previous year, while the consumption increased in 1898 by 57,000 loads. The circular says:

The import of white pine logs is again considerably reduced, and every year the trade is tending more and more towards the use of sawn lumber, which has been largely imported, cut to all thicknesses. Oak, elm, ash and red pine are all somewhat in excess of recent years' importation. In spruce the import has been extremely large, and has exceeded that of 1897 (which was a record year) by about 5,000 standards. This is largely owing to this commodity taking the place of Baltic white pine. Notwithstanding this, however, values have been well maintained throughout the year.

WANAY BOARDWOOD.—1st class.—During the early part of the year the inquiry was very languid, but with the arrival of the fresh timber a considerable demand sprang up, and some large transactions took place. We are not able, however, to report any advance in price, and sellers, being eager to move their stocks while there was some chance, have been content with very small margins of profit. Nineteen-inch wood has been sold at 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7½d., and 20-in. at 1d. more. The consumption has exceeded the imports by 1,900 loads, and 30 per cent. of the stock is held by consumers. 2nd class.—A large percentage of the remaining stock comes under this category, and the market will take a long time yet to recover from the overdoze which it got three years ago.

RED PINE.—The year began with no stock on hand, and owing to our railway companies being unable to secure their requirements in this timber, they have been using substitutes, with the result that sales have been somewhat disappointing, and there are still 460 loads available. The value of 48 to 50 cubic feet average wood is 2s. Several shipments of sawn logs brought from 12d. to 16d.

OAK.—The import has exceeded that of the last two years by over 1,000 loads. The de-

mand, however, has been fair, and although the stock carried forward to next year amounts to 2,900 loads, half of this is held by consumers. Timber to average 75 cubic feet per log has been sold at 3s. Really good wood is not too plentiful, but, on the other hand, all the large buyers are well stocked.

ELM.—Throughout the year there has been a steady demand for good timber, and, despite an increased import, prices have advanced, and as high as 2s. 4d. has been paid for 50 cubic feet average. A large portion of the stock carried to next year is of inferior quality.

BIRCH.—The import for the year from Montreal and Quebec amounts to about 700 loads, and from the Lower Ports 850 loads. Prices for Canadian logs have continued very firm throughout the year at from 1s. 3d. for 14-in. up to 1s. 10d. for 18-in., but Lower Port logs have been difficult to move at anything over a penny an inch. The stock of Canadian birch in first hands is small, but there is a considerable quantity of Picou wood on hand, which unfortunately includes a large proportion of inferior logs, making it difficult of disposal unless at low prices. A fair business has been done in planks, prices for which have ranged from £6 to £8 per standard.

ASH.—The import amounts to about 1,400 loads, and consisted principally of small log averaging about 14-in. On the whole, prices have been fairly steady at from 1s. 6d. for small wood up to 1s. 10d. for 16-in., but the consumption has been much interfered with by the strike in the furniture trade. Large white ash logs are wanted, but the stock of small stuff is quite ample for probable requirements.

QUEBEC DEALS.—The import of all kinds from Montreal and Quebec has been about 30,000 standards, being about 2,000 standards over last year, and the consumption has been correspondingly good. Prices, however, have not been favorable to the shipper, a drop having taken place early in the year, which has not been recovered since. They are, however, firmer at the moment than in midsummer, and the prospects being good, they should improve a little before the advent of new supplies. Current values have been as under: 1st pine, broads, £22 to £24; 11-inch, £20 10s. to £22; non-dimensions, £15 10s. to £18 10s.; ends, £15 to £18; strips, £12 10s. to £15. Second pine.—Regulars, £16 to £18; non-dimensions, £10 to £13. Third pine.—Broad, £10 to £11; 11-in., £9 10s. to £10; narrow, £7 to £8; strips and ends, £6 15s. to £7 10s. Fourth pine deals have been sold as low as £6 3s. 9d. per standard for 11-inch and £5 15s. for narrow, but sales lately have been made at £7 and £6 per standard respectively. Red pine deals have been scarce throughout the year, and parcels arriving have met with a ready market at fair prices, 9 and 11-in. realising £9 to £10 10s., and narrower sizes from £8 to £9 per standard. Pine sidings and boards have been done at £16 to £19 for 1st quality of good breadths, and £12 10s. to £14 for narrow; 3rd quality have been sold at £7 10s. to £9 per standard, according to specification.

LOWER PORT PINE AND SPRUCE DEALS.—Imports of Lower Port pine and spruce are about 20 per cent. over those of last year, being about 22,000 standards spruce and about 5,000 standards pine. Prices have been fairly steady all year, pine ranging from £5 10s. to £6 5s. for narrow and £6 5s. to £7 for 11-inch; and spruce, £6 to £6 7s. 6d. for 7-inch, £6 5s. to £6 15s. for 8-inch, and £6 15s. to £7 5s. for 9 and 11-inch.

William Archer, carpenter and lumber dealer, of Toronto, is announced to have assigned to George Day. A meeting of creditors is called for January 23rd.

The dissolution is announced of the firm of S. Gillies & Son, who operated saw and planing mills at Ailsa Craig and London, Ont., and Davison, Mich. S. Gillies continues at Ailsa Craig and Davison, and D. H. Gillies at London.

J. A. Rice, lumber dealer, Foxwarren, Man., has sold out.

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