

strong opposition, as logging this winter has been expensive. It is estimated that the log cut on the Upper St. John river will be about 115,000,000 feet, which is slightly less than the cut of last year. Late sales of square and waney timber have confirmed the advanced prices referred to in a previous issue. One authority quotes the following prices for waney timber for the Quebec market, average 24/25 feet lineal: 16-inch girth, 64 cents per cubic foot; 16 1/2-inch, 65 cents; 17-inch, 66 cents; 17 1/2-inch, 67 cents; 18-inch, 68 cents; 18 1/2-inch, 69 cents; 19-inch, 70 cents. Of course, in order to realize such prices the timber must grade 80 to 85 per cent. first-class.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The demand for lumber in the west is still tight, but there is plenty of business in sight. The permits issued since the first of the year for new buildings in Winnipeg presage another very active building season, with a consequent heavy demand for lumber. The British Columbia saw mills have sufficient orders to keep stocks from accumulating in large quantity and the outlook for the spring trade is considered bright. Negotiations are under way with the object of preventing, if possible, some of the ruinous competition for which the United States manufacturers have been responsible. The plan is to obtain a concession on freight rates from the Canadian Pacific Railway, this to be followed by a readjustment and slight lowering of lumber prices. Conferences are being held in Winnipeg this week with the object of perfecting the scheme.

Washington manufacturers have made an advance of 10 cents per thousand on shingles, which have been exceptionally low in price for some time past, and it is reported that similar action will be taken by the manufacturers of British Columbia in respect to that portion of the product marketed in the Eastern States.

UNITED STATES.

Severe weather has occasioned inactivity in the lumber market and the prospect of a continuation of existing conditions is not regarded with favor by those who have large stocks ready for the spring trade. However, the outlook has brightened during the past week. A few buyers have visited the Lake Superior district and closed contracts for stocks on hand and to be manufactured. That dry docks are well nigh exhausted is proven by the fact that at Duluth there is only one stock of pine lumber still unsold. Every box board has been picked up, and material which two or three years ago would be classed as refuse and burned now finds a ready market for box-making purposes. Buffalo and Tonawanda dealers are looking forward to an active demand as soon as spring opens, as yard stocks in the Eastern States are known to be very low. The disastrous fire in Baltimore will also create a very heavy demand for building material for the reconstruction of the burned district. Pine prices are steadier than they have been, consumers apparently appreciating the shortage of stock to a greater extent than they did earlier in the winter.

Hardwood prices in Michigan this winter are higher than ever before. Log run basswood is bringing \$25 per thousand, soft elm \$22, birch \$21, and maple \$15. While some buyers are pursuing a conser-

vative policy, others are satisfied that prices are at rock bottom and that nothing is likely to be gained by waiting. The winter in the north has not been favorable for getting out hardwood logs, but in the south good progress has been made, and there is likely to be a large production of southern hardwoods this year. Orders for shingles are more numerous and the market is firmer. A heavy spring movement is anticipated.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British market still displays much hesitancy. Importers do not look with favor upon the high prices that are asked for new stock. They are not disposed to close contracts at shippers' figures, and consequently the contracting season has been very backward. It is predicted that it will be the end of February before there is any buying to speak of. The commencement of hostilities between Russia and Japan has increased the prevailing uncertainty. The effect of the war, even if confined to the two nations now involved will be to create a heavy demand for money and increase the difficulty of securing accommodation for building and business purposes generally.

Holders of pine and spruce deals will probably profit by the increased prices being asked for 1904 stocks. There is a light supply of regular sizes, any accumulation being confined to oddments, which are at no time in very good demand. Consumers are still refusing to buy square and waney timber excepting where it must be used. Rock elm and oak are now so high in price that substitutes are being sought after, and this may curtail the consumption during the coming season.

THE WHITE PINE PRODUCTION.

The statistics covering the year 1903 show very clearly that the white pine production is gradually diminishing. Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota comprise the white pine centre of the United States. The total cut of these three States reached the high water mark in 1890, when the cut was 8,597,623,000 feet. The following year witnessed a slight decline, and in 1892 there was again an increase to 8,594,000,000 feet. In 1895 the cut was 7,000,000,000 feet, but this amount has not since been reached, and there has been a steady decline to 4,791,000,000 feet last year, the lowest point reached since 1878. Nothing could more conclusively show that the northern pine supply of the United States has declined beyond the possibility of any approach to the output of even six or seven years ago.

With the decadence of the Michigan timber supply operators turned their attention to Ontario, where all energies have been concentrated towards a large production. Notwithstanding this fact, as well as the prosperous condition of the lumber trade, the total production of the Ottawa Valley and Georgian Bay districts last year was little greater than in the previous year. The Georgian Bay district shows an increase of 60,000,000 feet, but this is offset to a large extent by a reduction of 46,000,000 feet in the Ottawa Valley cut.

Equally interesting are the statistics in respect to stocks on hand at the mills. Of the Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan production the stock on hand at the close

of last year was 1,964,000,000 feet, the lightest in the hands of manufacturers since 1887. It is 148,000,000 feet less than 1902, 420,000,000 feet less than in 1901, 875,000,000 feet less than 1900, 764,000,000 feet less than in 1899, 1,550,000,000 feet less than in 1898, 2,051,000,000 feet less than in 1897, 2,089,000,000 feet less than in 1896, and 2,216,000,000 feet less than in 1895.

No complete statistics are obtainable in reference to the quantity of stock in the hands of manufacturers in Ontario, but after careful inquiry it may be said that almost the entire production of 1903 has passed out of first hands. There is absolutely no box lumber unsold at the mills, and very little of other grades.

It is not only at the mills that there is a shortage in the pine supply. Statistics compiled by the new White Pine Association of Buffalo and Tonawanda show there are 144,000,000 feet of white pine in the Tonawanda market and 53,000,000 feet in the Buffalo market, with one or two yards unreported. This quantity is a great deal less than the stocks of former years. There is, it is said, an absolute shortage in many individual items some of which are currently in large demand.

The question to be considered is the production of logs this winter. In the Northern States every indication points to a material reduction. Many of the big concerns who have been putting in from one to two hundred million feet for years have not contracted for more than half that amount. In Ontario there was at the commencement of the logging season a determination on the part of operators to curtail their output from 15 to 25 per cent. as compared with last season. Early work in the woods was hampered by the difficulty of procuring sufficient labor, and a little later on, when labor became more plentiful, there was a very heavy fall of snow, which has since rendered work in the woods most difficult and expensive. In nearly all the white pine territory the snow is from three to five feet deep, making it almost impossible to haul the logs. The result is that the output of logs will fall considerably short of the estimated quantity. Some estimates place the shortage as compared with last season at from 30 to 40 per cent.

A market shortage of logs would, therefore, seem to be a certainty, and the effect upon lumber prices cannot be otherwise than strengthening. Such logs as reach the mills will represent a high cost to the manufacturer, rendering it absolutely necessary that he should obtain a high price for his lumber in order to prevent loss. Should the demand for lumber this season be as great as 1903 prices of white pine are certain to continue firm, with a strong probability of an advance.

S. Peters, planing mill, etc., Quebec, is announced to have assigned.

TIMBER LIMIT TRANSACTIONS.

The Beringer Syndicate, of Saginaw, Mich, have just completed the purchase of the timber property of W.S. Montgomery, of Dalhousie, N. B. The property consists of timber limits, saw mill and logging equipment and the price is said to be in the vicinity of \$100,000.

BROOM HANDLES

If an enterprising man with supplies of cheap Spruce, Basswood or Poplar care to put in several machines to work broom handles we can take his output. Write in first instance to Empire, care of CANADA LUMBERMAN.

WANTED

Hemlock Lumber, small or large lots, Pine and Hardwood, all dimensions from dead ends up. We will contract for the whole season's cut and give instructions for cutting; also cordwood and slabs, soft or hard.

FUEL & LUMBER CO.

75 Victoria St. TORONTO, ONT.

Planing, Matching, Resawing, etc.
In Car Lots.

Manufacturer of Doors, Sash, Mouldings, Ceilings and Matched and Bored HARDWOOD FLOORING A SPECIALTY.

Lumber Also Dried in Any Quantity
J. R. EATON - Orillia, Ont.
Correspondence Solicited.

MASON, GORDON & CO.

WHOLESALE TIMBER
Montreal, Quebec

Eastern Agents The B. C. Mills, Timber & Trading Co., Vancouver, B. C.
DOUBLES THE Timber in any size or length supplied
WRITE FOR PARTICULARS AND QUOTATIONS.

TELEGRAPH POLES WANTED

We buy all lengths. Write us for prices and you will see that by cutting your Cedar into Poles it will net you more than you can get out of it in any other way.

J. B. FARWELL & SON

Successors to M. Caffrey & Farwell.
Orillia, Ont. Oswego, N. Y.

30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN FORESTRY

Expert Explorer and Practical Lumberman.
Reports on Timber Limits, Pulp Wood Lands, Water Powers, Rivers and Streams.

HIGHEST REFERENCES
Frederick N. Ritchie,
Dealer & Broker

Timber Limits and Pulp Wood Lands, Lumber, Pulp Wood, Ties, etc.
Comm Retail Exchange: 131 St. Peter Street
QUEBEC, Canada

BULMER, McLENNAN & CO.

WANTED: Basswood, Birch, Hard Maple, Rock and Soft Elm Lumber

Office and Yard—571 Dorchester Street, MONTREAL, P. Q.
Telephone Main 388. Correspondence Solicited