

concessions of consequence to effect sales. It is our opinion that there will be no significant drop in white pine prices this summer.

Hardwoods are experiencing a good factory demand, in which birch is the leader. Soft elm also sells readily. There has been liberal buying of hemlock lumber on the basis of \$12 to \$12.50 at the mills.

**QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.**

The spruce situation is not entirely void of hope. Manufacturers are receiving an increasing number of enquiries for stock for shipment to the Eastern States, where the supply of dry spruce lumber is scarcely equal to the demand. While there is no improvement in British business, the loss in this trade will be offset in part by larger shipments to the Eastern States, if events bear out the present outlook. The leading market feature this week is the decline in lath prices in New York, to which point large consignments have recently been made. The decline ranges from twenty-five to fifty cents and has caused a very irregular market. American laths are quoted at St. John at \$2.05 to \$2.10, and provincial laths at \$1.80 to \$1.85. A recovery from these prices will no doubt occur in the near future, as the lath market in general is firm. Cedar shingles are showing a little more strength but prices are not quotably higher. For Boston delivery best grade New Brunswick cedars bring from \$3.30 to \$3.40.

The outlook for stream driving operations in New Brunswick has materially improved. The ice is now out of the St. John river and the work of driving is to be commenced this week. The river has risen quickly during the past few days, and with the large quantity of snow which still lies in the upper woods there is likely to be a sufficient depth of water for driving for some time to come. From present appearances the 40,000,000 feet of last year's logs will reach the mills safely and conditions are favorable for getting out the new cut also.

**MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

From the standpoint of demand and consumption, the lumber market of the North-West is in a healthy condition. Building permits to the value of over \$2,000,000 have already been taken out in Winnipeg this year, and in the leading British Columbia cities and towns active building operations are in progress. It is estimated that between one hundred and two hundred residences will be built in

Vancouver before the rainy season sets in next fall. The lumber dealers in Manitoba and the Territories are making preparations for a large trade, the mills having received an unusual number of orders within the past fortnight. Great difficulty is being experienced, however, in filling orders owing to the shortage of freight cars. This is no doubt due in part to the recent tie-up of traffic by the slides in the mountains. Many of the orders, also, are going to the mills across the border, and the importation from that field promises to be very heavy this year, to the detriment of the business of the Canadian manufacturers. The British Columbia mills are now unable to slip lumber into Washington, the collectors of customs having added to the import duty on lumber the amount of the alleged export tax imposed by the British Columbia Government on timber, making the duty on some grades of lumber as high as \$7.50 per thousand feet. The British Columbia lumbermen have again requested the Dominion Government to take steps to remedy the unfair conditions which now exist as a result of which many mills are considering the question of closing down. That such conditions should exist in the face of an active lumber demand calls for immediate action on the part of the Dominion Government.

**UNITED STATES.**

There has not been the increased activity in lumber which was expected upon the advent of spring weather. The demand is rather spasmodic and some dealers are quite apathetic. The result is that a few holders of stock are exhibiting some anxiety to realize, causing indications of weakness in certain districts. Concessions granted have been confined to narrow limits, and in white pine to the higher grades. Coarse lumber is about one dollar higher than last year, this being the result of the abnormal demand for box-making purposes. The building requirement has not yet presented itself in full measure, but there will no doubt be a heavy demand from this source during the next few weeks, as the outlook for building is considered good. The feeling at Buffalo and Tonawanda is moderately hopeful. The opening of navigation is welcome, as nearly all the box and low grade pine is in the hands of the box-makers. Our list this week shows a slight advance in the price of pine box.

The hardwoods are holding their own. Birch is a leader in point of demand and the supply is comparatively light, while

basswood and maple, which are inquired for quite liberally, are in more plentiful supply, and an occasional report is heard that prices are a little less firm. Thick stock is difficult to find in any quantity.

Shingles are still dull and prices show no tendency to improvement. The same may be said of laths, although white pine laths are considered good property.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

The tone of the British lumber market is slightly improved, the recent failures having lost their effect to some extent. Better weather has stimulated building operations and there seems to be less apprehension of a further decline in prices. Contracts for c. i. f. delivery cannot yet be closed on basis of shippers' ideas, but the seller and buyer appear to be getting a little closer together. Spot prices are holding up well, as merchants are beginning to realize that the difference between the price of lumber on hand and that asked for delivery this year does not warrant them in sacrificing their stock. The course of prices, however, largely depends upon the question of demand, and should a steady improvement take place during the next few weeks, the pessimistic feeling which has been so prevalent would soon pass away.

At a recent public sale in London 3 x 11 inch spruce deals brought £8 15s. to £9 for second quality and £8 for thirds. First quality Quebec pine deals also sold somewhat low, but the lumber was scarcely up to grade.

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