

turning out 1,000 pairs per day, thirteen from five hundred to one thousand pairs, and the other five from one hundred to five hundred pairs per day.

Messrs. J. D. King & Co. have a capacity in their Levis factory to manufacture an average of 1,000 pairs per day. Thus in Quebec, according to this estimate, there are about 30,000 pairs of boots and shoes manufactured per day, and 9,000,000 per year of three hundred working days. We do not by any means begrudge the city of Quebec her prosperity, so largely associated with the production of boots and shoes, but, at the same time, it is impossible to refrain from regretting that the leaders of organized labor in Ontario have not sufficient foresight to see that western labor as well as capital, must compete with the east to make the industry a success.

WHEAT VALUES LOWER.

Conditions in grain circles have been working during the past fortnight towards a slump in wheat. Bear influences have been uppermost, and when 31st May came, which was the last day for the victims of the Leiter "deal," there was a violent fall of almost 50 cents. Local prices show an average decline of about seven cents per bushel since our last issue. Ontario winter and spring wheat are quoted 90 cents to \$1, as against \$1.03 to \$1.08 per bush. last week, while Manitoba hard shows a decline from a range of \$1.10 to \$1.42 per bushel to \$1.18 to \$1.37 per bushel. The crop conditions in Ontario and Manitoba and other wheat-growing districts of the Dominion are described by correspondents as all that could be desired. In the Western States the present condition of the wheat crop is said to be equal in progress to anything ever developed. Seed went into the ground in fine condition, with the surface fairly dry, and with the deep frost underneath. Enough moisture was supplied to start germination, and with moderately dry weather following the plant went deep into the earth. Then came the general rain throughout the entire Northwest, giving abundant moisture for several weeks to come. Rust, it is said, is already showing itself in the fields of Kansas and Missouri, and, to a small extent, in other winter wheat States. The danger to winter wheat now lies in that direction, owing to heavy rains in the past few days. From most of the wheat countries abroad reports are received showing the condition of the growing plant to be excellent.

When Europe showed, some weeks ago, a phenomenal demand for wheat, the world was scoured for supplies, and with the high prices ruling every inducement has existed to bring out the remainder of last year's crop. The world's wheat shipments last week were 13,029,000, against 11,239,000 the previous week, and 5,705,000 last year, of which India shipped 3,016,000, against 2,136,000 the previous week and none a year ago. Russian wheat shipments (ex St. Petersburg), 4,664,000 last week, against 3,272,000 the previous week, and 2,872,000 a year ago. America is credited with having sent 4,809,000 bushels by way of export. Trafton says that last week's exports of wheat were the best of any week in 1898, and only exceeded three times, and slightly, too, 1897.

Where the decline will stop, and what will be the basis of values for the new crop next autumn we cannot say. The N. Y. Journal and Bulletin in this connection says: "If under \$1 wheat is seen at the seaboard for contract grade the first three months of the new crop year, then Europe's crops will have to turn out better and be harvested earlier than now seems likely, and everything will have to favor the crop of the world to reduce the export

value of wheat much under that figure the first half of the crop year. Indeed, the rest of the world, or the majority of the wheat-raising countries, will have to raise more than average crops to bring wheat below a \$1 basis during the entire coming year, for never have been the reserves run so low the world over as they will be this year in the history of the trade, if statistics and authorities are anywhere near right.

CURRENT LUMBER CONDITIONS.

In its review of the features of the United States lumber market, the North Western Lumberman took a somewhat despondent tone in its issue of May 21st, which is not, however, so perceptible in its remarks on May 28th. In the first of these issues that journal said: "The quietude of trade in the east, consequent on the influence of the war on the money market and the general caution in financial and business circles which prevails, is an important feature of the general condition. With some exceptions, demand for most kinds of lumber throughout the middle and New England states is pronounced dull. At Albany, shipments into New England are fairly large; otherwise trade is unseasonably quiet. Stocks of pine and spruce at that point are said to be low for the season, especially in respect to northern spruce, while supplies of western pine are not excessive. Breaks in the Erie canal have delayed its opening, and thus shipments from Tonawanda and Buffalo to Albany, New York and other eastern points have been belated, which is being taken into account as affecting trade in the immediate future. . . . Box lumber is still in short supply at the east, and prices are well sustained. Low grade western stock is selling relatively better than good lumber in the eastern markets and consuming centres.

"The state of business in the eastern states is having a dulling effect on the market for bulk stocks at points on the great lakes. In Saginaw valley the eastern car load trade has sunk to small proportions, and not much is moving to Lake Erie points by the cargo."

On Saturday last the report as to pine is in part as follows: "In the wholesale northern pine trade there is still apathy in respect to a liberal stocking up with this season's product of the mills. The manufacturers are holding fast for the prices they set out to obtain in the spring, and the wholesale dealers in Chicago, Toledo, Tonawanda, Buffalo and other points west and east are settling down to the conclusion that there is to be no serious break in prices. Eastern reports indicate a continuance of the dullness that settled on the lumber trade after the declaration of war in April. There has been very little recovery as yet, though a slight awakening is reported at Tonawanda, where the demand for cutting up stock, barn boards, farmers' clear, shippers, and other lines has somewhat improved. The Erie Canal was lately opened for the season, and many boat loads are now on their way eastward. This movement helps to relieve the monotony somewhat at Tonawanda and Buffalo. Reports from New England continue to indicate a weakness in the spruce trade, frames in the Boston and Portland markets having dropped from \$13.50 to \$13 a thousand, carrying prices of other spruce downward in corresponding ratio. In New York, trade is waiting for the war disturbance to pass over, and a new play to begin of enterprise in the building and manufacturing lines. The condition in the east in respect to the war paralysis is different from that in the west. In the interior the war has apparently had little deterrent effect on the lumber trade, except in the cities, where real estate improvement has been checked by an inability to secure loans on the security that before the outbreak of hostilities was deemed sufficient. In point of fact the lumber trade of the entire country is now dependent on agricultural prosperity, and on industries and transportation matters closely connected with such prosperity." . . . The hardwood export trade, the Lumberman continues, has not suffered so much from the war as was expected.

AUTUMN COLORS.

The color cards issued by the Paris syndicates of manufacturers indicating the different shades in which their materials will be dyed for the fall season, and the names by which the several shades will be designated have recently been issued to the trade, and we are indebted to the New York Economist for information of their contents. The color card issued by the Chambre Syndicale des Fleurs et Plumes, while applying more directly to millinery, is regarded as the most authoritative of the lists of shades issued each spring and fall. The one just issued for the fall of 1898 opens up with blues of a lavender cast. More blue, they are sure to be freely employed. Only one of these, Barbeau, was on the summer card—under the name of Cuirasse. This series includes Lavande, Jacinthe, Pervenche, Centauree, Bourrache