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CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS**ONTARIO.**

The advent of the new year brought no increased activity to the lumber trade. The movement of stock during the past week has been very light and confined to urgent orders. Buyers are making inquiries concerning the prices asked by manufacturers for next season's cut, and some contracts are likely to be closed very shortly. The more conservative persons are disposed to wait until they are better able to judge of the prospects for spring business, but others seem to be of the opinion that a fair season will be experienced and that lumber bought at present prices is good value. The universal report from manufacturers is that lumber stocks are not heavy. The logging season opened favorably, but the deep snow which now prevails in the northern woods is interfering with operations and is likely to result in curtailing the output. It is probable that the cut of hemlock in particular will be short this winter owing to the great depth of snow and the difficulty that was experienced in the early fall in getting men at a reasonable wage.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The statement of wintering stocks at Quebec shows the strong position of spruce deals. The total quantity carried over this winter is approximately 4,300,000 feet, as compared with 8,000,000 feet one year ago. The export from the St. Lawrence slightly exceeded last year's shipments. The stock of pine deals is practically nil, but this is due in part to the fact that Quebec is now an unimportant shipping point for pine lumber. The wintering stock of square pine is 413,469 cubic feet, as compared with 395,963 cubic feet one year ago. The corresponding figures for waney are 406,038 and 361,393 cubic feet. The explanation of this increase is that the stocks carried over one year ago were exceptionally light. With the exception of last season, the stock wintering this year is under that of any previous year. Prices asked for rafts now making show a considerable advance over earlier figures. Red pine, elm, ash and birch are in lighter stock than one year ago, while the wintering stock of oak shows a decided increase, the figures being 491,851 and 192,161 cubic feet. It is evident, therefore, that the advanced prices have stimulated production. A reduction in the quantity manufactured this winter seems probable. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia prices of spruce lumber are reported to be a little easier. There has been a drop in the price of spruce logs from \$13, the high point reached a few months ago, to \$11, the current quotation. It is believed, however, that values will gradually increase, which is much to be desired, as about 30,000,000 feet of last season's cut of logs, which were bought at high prices, are being up above Grand Falls, on the St. John river.

UNITED STATES.

The close of the year finds the lumber trade of the United States in a satisfactory condition. Lumbermen are much encouraged by the fact that although towards the end of the year the demand fell off considerably, the stock of unsold lumber is light, perhaps below the average. In the Saginaw valley stocks of white pine are about 15 per cent. less than one year ago. A few contracts have been made with manufacturers for stock for next

season's delivery and some large transactions are said to be pending. The price list committee of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association will meet this week, when it is probable that an advance will be made in the price of dimension.

The lists of the new white pine association formed at Buffalo show only 13 per cent. of box lumber. This is a very low stock and before the new cut is ready it will be necessary to substitute other kinds of lumber for boxes to a very large extent. This will have a strengthening effect upon the general market. Mill culls and scoots are also in very light supply in Buffalo. A dealer recently sold a quantity of scoots at \$12.00. The most liberal supply is of No. 2 and No. 3 barn. There is a better demand for No. 3 cuts, and Norway is moving with some freedom. The consumption of hardwood lumber has been checked by the holiday period and less complaint is made of the scarcity than was the case one month ago. There is more birch in sight than there was a year ago, notwithstanding that the demand has been quite strong. Hemlock is quiet, but there is no disposition to cut prices. The trade is of the opinion that the production this winter will be light. In Pennsylvania, for instance, the production this year is estimated at 500,000,000 feet, as compared with 800,000,000 feet in 1903.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Advices from Great Britain reflect the uncertainty which prevails in business circles. The different views expressed regarding a fiscal policy are not conducive to confidence, and the best that is hoped for is that trade conditions may become no worse. Agents of lumber exporters are making their usual rounds and are succeeding in placing some stock, but it is small in quantity as compared with one year ago. There is some satisfaction in knowing that pine and spruce deals are looked upon as likely to continue firm in price on account of the prospective light export from this country. A moderate quantity of waney pine timber is going into consumption, but the demand for square pine is light. Dealers anticipate a fair demand for ash, birch and elm, as the quantity carried by dealers is not large.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Charles O. Black, of Oxford, N. S., will take out 4,000,000 feet of logs this winter.

During the past year Buffalo shipped 178,000,000 feet of lumber by lake, or 30,000,000 feet less than 1903.

Mason & Gordon, of Montreal, have 50 men at work taking out square timber on their limits near North Bay, Ont.

The ship *Wilhelmine* has just loaded 1,400,000 feet of lumber at Chemainus, B. C., for Cape Town, South Africa.

It is estimated that a little over 300,000,000 feet of lumber has been shipped from Saginaw Valley points by rail during the past year.

E. I. White & Son, of Sand River, N.S., expect to cut during the coming season 3,000,000 feet of lumber, 3,000,000 lath, and 10,000 pcs. spruce piles.

The Turner Lumber Company, of Midland, Ont., have fourteen camps in operation this season. Their log input will probably be as great as last year.

In the North Tonawanda market pine uppers are selling at from \$84 to \$95, ac-

ording to width and quality, while 4-inch selects are quoted at \$92 by some dealers.

The Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, London, England, has received an inquiry from a manufacturing company of Cardiff, who wish to be placed in communication with Canadian manufacturers of box shooks.

A lumberman who recently visited the Georgian Bay district states that there is no lumber for sale in that district, the cut of the year having been sold out. He says that he never knew lumber to be sold up so closely.

It is reported that a steamer has been chartered to load part cargo of lumber at Chemainus, B. C., for Calcutta, during February. The steamer *Khyder* is loading at same port for Australia and the steamer *Hydra* will load for Chili.

The Hanbury Manufacturing Company, of Brandon, Man., expect to cut 7,000,000 feet of lumber during the coming season. They have a mill at Cranbrook, B. C., operated under the name of the North Star Lumber Company, where they will cut 8,000,000 feet the coming year.

Messrs. J. H. Moore and C. P. Roe, who were in Toronto recently on their return from the lumber camps of the Georgian Bay district and Algoma, say that the shortage in the output is very marked in some instances. The cut of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company alone will be reduced from 80,000,000 feet, the output of last season, to 60,000,000 feet.

Notice is given in the British Columbia Gazette that tenders will be received by the Lands and Works Department, Victoria, up to noon, Wednesday, January 20th, from any person desirous of obtaining a lease under section 42 of the Land Act of a timber limit situated on Vancouver Island, known as lots 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124 and 125, Rupert district, containing in the aggregate 21,956 acres.

Messrs. Claremonte, Man & Company in their last report say regarding the Barbados market: "There have been four arrivals of white pine and spruce during the fortnight. The last sale of white pine for a cargo on the spot was at \$25.75 per thousand for merchantable and \$20.75 for second quality; spruce, \$22 for merchantable and \$18 for second quality. Last sales of Gaspe long cedar shingles were at \$5.57; Cedar Laying, \$2.05 to \$2.07 1/2."

E. T. Carrington, of Bay City, and Mr. Arnold, of Albany, have purchased the interest of their partners in the Spanish River Lumber Company, comprising some stock in the Spanish River Boom Company, some 50,000,000 feet of pine, and a large quantity of hardwood and cedar in the Spanish River country. The firm stocks a saw mill formerly owned by the company, but which was sold to Bay City parties two years ago.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 24—This is a very dull time of the year in the lumber trade. The British Columbia Gazette shows but a half dozen applications for licenses to cut timber, and the loggers who have returned from the coast are spending their Christmas holidays in town.

Now that the full text of the new timber regulations have been thoroughly understood, there is a general dissatisfaction on both sides. Those who expressed satisfaction a week ago have been entirely converted, and nine out of every ten lumbermen believe that the government has made a mistake in trying to please the few rather than the many. They have increased the revenue of small holders who could not afford it, and allowed the monied men who hold timber under no restrictions, having acquired it in the early days, to come into unfair competition with those who have to finance their deal from first to last with the banks.

The news from up country is to the effect that there is great activity in the lumber business. These sections are near the ever-growing Northwest Canada.

Theodore Ludgate, a well known mill man, has completed a magnificent mill, as large as any mill on the coast, near Chemainus on Vancouver Island. In that vicinity alone there is an army of 1,000 men at work logging. This applies to different sections in the Kootenay, so that in spite of the statement that there is no money in the logging business, there seems to be no let up to the establishment of new mills throughout the province.

SAVANNE MILLS SOLD.

The entire holdings of the Savanne Lumber Company at Savanne, Northwestern Ontario, including mills, bush outfit and limits, were sold by public auction at Savanne a few days ago, and the property knocked down to Patrick Hogan, the sum paid being \$14,000. The mills are situated on the C.P.R., about two miles west of Savanne station, where they have been operated for seven or eight years. This site is to be abandoned and the mill removed to a point near Kashebowie, on the Canadian Northern Railway, in which neighborhood the company's limits are located. Mr. Hogan was resident manager for the company.

TO HOLDERS OF BIRCH LIMITS

Can you cut birch into Squares, &c. We can also take birch cut on the sweep with a jigger or small band saw. Large quantities required. Write in first instance to "Finance," c/o CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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.

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Successors to McCallister & Farwell.

Orillia, Ont.

Oswego, N. Y.

THE LUMBER SITUATION.

Mr. Jesse D. Crary contributes to the New York Lumber Trade Journal a very able review of the lumber situation, from which we extract the following:

Another important item in the lumber world is spruce timber. It is higher today than ever before, and we look for no lower prices. The stock is in the hands of a very few operators. A dozen firms perhaps own three-quarters of all the standing spruce in Maine, an equal number control the bulk of the timber in New Brunswick, while the spruce timber of West Virginia is in the hands of a few operators, and these owners are able to maintain a conservative policy. The demand for spruce for pulp makes them absolutely independent, and the financial standing of those concerned makes a conservative policy possible and probable. For instance, we know of one firm in Maine that owns 250,000 acres that could easily cut 25,000,000 feet a year, that will be satisfied to cut 10,000,000 feet. I anticipate no material decline in the price of spruce timber during the year 1904.

Several weeks ago there was manifested a slight weakness in the upper grades of white pine, but that weakness to-day has disappeared and there is no evidence of any other weakness. The price of the season's cut of deal has been materially advanced, but even at the advanced price it probably nets the operator no more than it did before, and perhaps even less, because of the increased expense of operating. There is no reason to anticipate any lower prices in white pine.

Half a dozen operators control practically all the hemlock that comes to the New York market, and from all the information I can gain the present price is being maintained, with no prospect of a break. The present basis of \$17 will not be lower this season, in the opinion of those most interested. In fact, holders of hemlock state with confidence that they have the situation fully in hand.

There is not a weak spot in the hardwood situation, and no reason to believe that present prices will not be maintained. In fact, in some respects advances would not be at all improbable. There is absolutely no surplus stock of anything in hardwoods. In some lines there is an actual shortage. There will probably be some scattering lots of hardwoods which will be offered at prices which might be called "off," but not so with the bulk of the stock. The probabilities are that poplar will range from \$50 a thousand feet. Quartered oak will probably advance, as there is a great scarcity of this particular wood. Plain oak will hold its own. Ash will probably hold its own. In fact, it may be safely said as a general

proposition that the hardwood market is all right and will stay all right.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK LOG PRODUCTION.

The cut of logs on the Miramichi in the province of New Brunswick this season is estimated at 100,000,000 feet, but the winter so far has been favorable and this estimate may be exceeded. Last year the cut on the same river was 125,000,000 feet. The cause of the reduction in this winter's cut is, first, the sluggishness of the British market; second, the present high rate of wages; third, the difficulty of securing woodsmen; fourth, the advanced cost of provisions and other camp requisites; fifth, the long distance to haul logs, which is annually increasing, and sixth, the smaller sized logs which operators are taking out. It is pointed out that much of the territory in New Brunswick has been cut over once and that the present growth is younger trees, and correspondingly smaller.

The stock wintering on the Miramichi in logs is about 5,000,000 feet more than last year, and the sawn stock 10,000,000 feet greater, and even at the reduced winter cut, next season's shipments will probably be as large as this season's.

The increased cost of logs last year, even with so much lower wages and expenses than prevail this year, made holders of saw and pulp logs very conservative as regards selling prices. If this continues next season, the price of lumber will be maintained, and many manufacturers are looking for an advance.

THE DEMAND FOR BOX LUMBER.

There never was a time in the history of the lumber and box trade when the box business was in more satisfactory condition than it is at the present time, so far as demand and price go. There is not a box shooch producer in the country who is not buried out of sight with orders, many of

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FREIGHT—Shipments are handled from points in Eastern Canada either Grand Trunk or Canadian Pacific Railways via North Bay to Port Arthur, thence Canadian Northern Railway, or via Chicago.

PASSENGER—Passengers destined to points on the Canadian Northern Railway north, south and west of Winnipeg, can purchase through tickets via Chicago and St. Paul, where connection is made with the Canadian Northern Flyer for Winnipeg via Great Northern Railway, also with Northern Pacific Railway.

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 35 King St. East, Toronto, Ont.
GEORGE H. BEAW,
 Traffic Manager, Winnipeg, Man.

them being sold ahead for months. White pine box lumber is short and relatively high.

This condition of the box business ought to be highly satisfactory to the lumber trade in general. By following the trend of the box industry a very accurate estimate can be made of lumber conditions in general. When the box business is good lumber business is good. So long as manufacturers produce enormous quantities of goods and put them in cases so long will the country in general be in a condition of prosperity that will induce building of houses, additional factory facilities and exert a demand for lumber for other purposes that will be large in volume and strong in price.

So long as the box business is good white pine shop lumber may go \$5 or \$10 off or to the demeriton bno-wows, and still the lumber business as a whole will be alright. The box demand is the keynote to the entire situation.—American Lumberman.

HEMLOCK.

The prospects are for higher prices in the hemlock market, and it is generally believed that with the opening of trade in the spring an actual conservative advance will be made. As the new year approaches

it is possible to detect a gradual feeling for the better. From the trend of the commercial and financial reports favorable developments in general trade are at hand. The feeling of uncertainty has reached its height, says the Mississippi Valley Lumberman, and confidence in a healthy business condition throughout the country is prevalent. A large consumption of lumber is looked for and in the middle west the building movement is expected to be quite extensive. Dealers in hemlock have bought sparingly of stock for more than six months; have substituted their stocks rather than buy additional material; owners of two or more yards have been shipping from one to the other; meanwhile consumption has been going on, manufacturers have prepared to curtail production, and all these causes have resulted in a very small visible supply of hemlock. On this basis the market is in a decidedly promising condition to grow strong.

Spring trade is not expected to come with a rush, as dealers will continue their policy of retrenchment, but this will necessarily pass by with the advance of spring. Dealers will be cautious and conservative but not timid. There is an expanding population pressing for new homes to be reckoned with and trade must necessarily be of good volume.

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 Manufacturers of Pine, Hemlock and Hardwood Lumber, and dealers in Cordwood
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FOR Pine, Hemlock, or Hardwood, Lumber and Timber, Telegraph Poles, Ties, Posts, Lath, Shingles, Dressed Lumber, Sash, Doors, Interior Finish, End Matched and Bored Hardwood Flooring, etc., try

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Sole Eastern Agent for The North Pacific Lumber Company, Limited, Barnet, B. C. Douglas Fir Timber in any size or length 10 to 60 feet long. Timber Planers face up to 24 inch x 30 inch Dry Kilns of large capacity. Rough and Dressed Lumber, Douglas, Fir and Cedar.

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CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

From Halifax, N.S.: Str. Universe, for Sharpness, England, 1,640,769 ft. spruce deals, value \$18,500; 21,056 ft. hemlock deals, value \$2,796. Str. Tunisian, for Liverpool, 600,000 ft. spruce deals, value \$68,000.

From Yarmouth, N.S.: Barque Vigo, for Buenos Ayres, 1,208,000 ft. lumber, value \$19,732, by Dickie & McGrath. Barque Brookside, for Montevideo, 723,000 ft. lumber, value \$10,837, by Parker, Ekins & Co. Str. Briardene, for Barrow, England, 584,000 ft. deals, value \$7,331, by Dickie & McGrath. Schr. J. H. Logan and Leonard Parker, for Buenos Ayres and West Indies, cargoes lumber.

From St. John, N.B.: Str. Kastalia, for Glasgow, 627,103 ft. deals, 18,050 ends, 32,487 ft. birch squares, 23,380 pcs. pickets, 66 pcs. pine timber. Str. Montford, for Avonmouth, 667,671 ft. deals,

19,104 ft. ends, 3,152 ft. scantling, 50,179 ft. birch planks, 4,280 ft. birch ends. Schr. Ayr, for City Island, 114,809 ft. plank, 59,841 ft. scantling. Barque Still Water, for Rosario, 459,721 ft. boards, 42,759 ft. plank, 446,809 ft. scantling. Str. Tunisian, for Liverpool, 207,955 ft. deals, 5,044 ft. ends, 22,016 bundles shooks. Sch. Aldine, for Newhaven, 102,314 ft. deal ends, 120,271 ft. scantling, 129,071 ft. plank. Schr. Adelaide, for Providence, 1,144,000 laths. Str. Oriana, for Cape Town and Durban, 10 stds. deals. Schr. W. E. & W. F. Tucker, for Newhaven, 39,702 ft. pine pickets, 16,685 ft. pine ends, \$3,901 ft. boards, 411,000 laths. Schr. Lois V. Chaples, for Stonington, 76,052 ft. deals, 500,000 laths, 700,000 cedar shingles. Str. Tritonia, for Glasgow, 17 pcs. pine lumber, 208,037 ft. deals, 4,016 ft. ends. Schr. Otis Miller, for Bridgeport, 1,500 feet spruce boards, 400,000 laths, 685,000 cedar shingles

THE BOSTON MARKET.

There is an improvement in the supply of spruce lumber at Boston. The demand is quiet and prices are steady and unchanged: Ten and 12 in. dimensions, \$21; 9 in. and under, \$19; 9 and 12 in. random lengths, 10 ft. and up, \$20.50; 2x3, 2x4, 2x5, 2x6, 2x7 and 3x4, 10 ft. and up, \$17.50; all other random, 9 in. and under, 10 ft. and up, \$18.50; 5 in. and up, merchantable boards, \$17; matched boards, \$18.50 to \$20; out spruce boards, \$13 to \$14; bundle furring, \$17.

There is a quiet demand for hemlock lumber, with prices unchanged: Boards, 12, 14 and 16 ft. stock, \$14.50 for good eastern; Pennsylvania No. 1, \$18.50 to \$19.50; No. 2, \$15 to \$16.50.

Western pine lumber is quiet, but prices are still very firmly held: Uppers, 1 to 2 in., \$84 to \$87; 2 1/2 to 3 in., \$92 to \$97; 4-in. \$96 to \$100; select, 1-in., \$76; 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 in., \$76 to \$78; 2-in., \$78;

2 1/2 to 3 in., \$84; 4-in., \$86; fine common, 1-in., \$67; 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 in., \$69; 2-in., \$72; 2 1/2 to 3 in., \$80; 4-in., \$82; barn boards, \$23 to \$33; coffin boards, \$28 to \$32.

There is a firm market for hardwoods, with an excellent demand for choice quartered oak, but other hardwoods are quiet: Quartered oak, \$85 to \$92; plain oak, \$12 to \$45; common and rejects, \$20 to \$25; red oak, plain, \$43; white wood, \$41 to \$55; \$49, \$43 to \$48; common, \$39 to \$45; brown ash, \$41 to \$44; white ash, \$43 to \$46; maple, \$33 to \$37; end dried white maple, \$46; birch, \$27 to \$30; birch, 75 per cent. red, \$45 to \$50; northern elm, \$29 to \$31.

Chapboards are quiet: Extra, \$43 to \$44; clear, \$42; second clear, \$40; extra No. 1, \$30.

There is a steady demand for shingles at unchanged prices: Extra cedar, \$3.35 to \$3.45; clear, \$2.85 to \$2.95; second clear, \$2.25 to \$2.40; extra, No. 1, \$1.50 to \$1.70; British Columbia red cedar, 10-in. five butts to 2 in., \$3.45 to \$3.50; 18-in. five butts to 2 in., \$3.75 to \$4; five butts to 2 1/2 in., \$4.15 to \$4.30.

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