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CANADA LUMBERMAN

WEEKLY EDITION

The Lumberman Monthly Edition, 20 pages } \$1.00 PER YEAR (The Lumberman Weekly Edition, every Wednesday

THIS PAPER REACHES REGULARLY THE PRINCIPAL LUMBER MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS THROUGHOUT CANADA, AND WHOLESALE BUYERS IN GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FOREIGN MARKETS.

VOL. VI.

TORONTO, ONT., SEPTEMBER 5, 1900

No 33

CANADA LUMBERMAN

PUBLISHED BY

The G. H. Mortimer Publishing Co.'s
of Toronto, Limited
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Branch Office:
IMPERIAL BUILDING, MONTREAL.

Weekly Lumberman, published every Wednesday. Contains reliable and up-to-date market conditions and tendencies in the principal manufacturing districts and leading domestic and foreign wholesale markets. A weekly medium of information and communication between Canadian timber and lumber manufacturers and exporters and the purchasers of timber products at home and abroad.

Lumberman, Monthly. A 20-page journal, discussing fully and impartially subjects pertinent to the timber and wood-working industries. Contains interviews with prominent members of the trade, and character sketches and portraits of leading lumbermen. Its special articles on technical and mechanical subjects are especially valuable to saw mill and planing mill men and manufacturers of lumber products.

Subscription price for the two editions for one year, \$1.00.

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Advertisements will be inserted in this department at the rate of 15 cents per line each insertion. When four or more consecutive insertions are ordered a discount of 25 per cent. will be allowed. This notice shows the width of the line and is set in Nonpareil type; 12 lines make one inch. Advertisements must be received not later than 4 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday to insure insertion in the current week's issue.

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BRITISH TIMBER SALE.

Following are the prices obtained for Canadian deals, etc., at a sale held by Foy, Morgan & Company, London, England, on August 27th:

SPRUCE—EX. Hildawell, from Quebec—12 ft. 3x11 in., unassorted, £7 15s and £7 10s; 12 ft. 3x9, £9 and £9 15s; 11 ft. 3x7, £8; 9-10 ft. 3x9, £7 10s; 5-8 ft. 3x9 £7 6s; 9-12 ft. 3x8, £7 5s; 5-8 ft. 3x8, £7; 7-12 ft. 3x12-18 £7 10s. Ex. Isel Holme, from Quebec—12 ft. 3x9, second quality, £10 10s. Ex. Mab, from Matane, 4-8 ft. 3x11, unassorted, £10; 4-8 ft. 3x9, £9 10s; 4-8 ft. 3x8, £8 5s; 9 ft. 3x7, £9 5s; 6-8 ft. 3x7, £9.
Spruce slating battens, 6-17 ft. 3/2 x 2 in. unassorted, sold at 15 5d to 15 6d per 144 ft. run.

The Ontario government have invited tenders up to October 15th for a license to cut the pine timber situated on lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, in the first concession of the township of Dana, district of Nipissing. Much of this timber has been damaged by fire.

CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS. ONTARIO.

Trade in pine lumber, although not altogether satisfactory, is devoid of that life which usually characterizes business during the month of September. August was extremely dull in respect to local trade. Whether the current month will bring about much improvement is a matter of conjecture. Mills in the Georgian Bay district are shipping quite largely to the Eastern States, and in the Ottawa valley export business is more active. While prices generally are firm, there has been, we believe, some slight cutting on certain grades of which a manufacturer has had a large supply. The feeling, however, is almost universal towards maintaining prices at their present basis.

The outlook for hardwood manufacturers does not seem to be altogether reassuring. The demand is backward and manufacturers are carrying a considerable quantity of stock. The bulk of this stock is the present season's production, and consequently unfit for shipping until well into the fall. But unless the demand shall improve materially manufacturers will be obliged to go into the winter with heavy stocks. The logs from which this stock was cut were purchased at what may be called an excessive price, and consequently there is a strong disposition on the part of some manufacturers to realize quickly. If they cannot do so at current quotations they are likely to reduce their asking prices. Thus it will be seen that unless there should arise an enlarged consumption and improved demand for lumber, the market may be expected to weaken.

MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The lumber business in Manitoba and the Territories has been adversely affected by the weather of the past week. The outlook for fall business is only fair. In British Columbia trade is active and fair prices are being secured. Building in Vancouver is quiet, and it appears that the demand for residences has been satisfied. A large export trade in lumber is doing, the manufacturers reporting orders from all parts of the world. It is estimated that the Moodyville mills will export 12,000,000 feet between now and the end of the year.

UNITED STATES.

The lumber trade of the United States are still waiting patiently for the fall demand to present itself. Apart from a slight increase in the number of enquiries, rarely followed by orders, the situation

has not changed. That there are reasons to expect a considerable improvement in business cannot be disputed, although a trade equal in proportion to that of last fall is considered out of the question. With prices getting to a bottom, retail stocks low, railroads planning improvements, and a prospect of a car shortage, consumers will surely show a disposition to stock up to meet their fall and winter requirements. There is, of course, on the other hand, the usual business uncertainty which always characterizes the year of a presidential election, but up to the present the commercial interests of the country do not seem to have suffered to any extent from this cause. There has recently been a better movement of lumber from the Lake Superior district, the orders being chiefly for bill stuff and dimension timber. In Chicago there is a scarcity of inch lumber, and several dealers have been resawing two inch to supply their customers.

Spruce lumber is showing a little more strength, and an advance in prices is looked for in the near future. Hardwoods have held firmly at the lower prices recently established. At Boston ash sells at \$40 to \$42 for one inch, \$43 to \$45 for one to two inch, and \$50 to \$60 for three and four inch. A considerable quantity of elm has been purchased in Michigan by eastern dealers.

GREAT BRITAIN.

No advance has taken place in the United Kingdom in the price of Canadian lumber, but with equal accuracy it may be said that there has been no decline. The market is particularly firm, the higher qualities of stock showing more strength than the lower grades. White pine deals of first quality are selling at from £28 to £30 per standard. Contractors and general consumers have now given up hope of a weaker market, and as a result an increased volume of building is under way. Trade at Liverpool is rather quiet, but at London more activity is reported. Some dimensions of spruce, such as 3x11 in. in long lengths, are wanted and meet with ready sale. In the timber trade waney board pine is most enquired for. Prices are well maintained, buyers seemingly having made up their minds to give the prices asked by holders of stock. No business of any account for next season has been done. There is much uncertainty as to future prices, owing chiefly to the unsettled condition of the freight market.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

Sales of lumber at Duluth for the last week in August total 15,000,000 feet.

A large fleet of vessels, carrying about 6,000,000 feet of lumber, arrived at Tonawanda last week.

New Brunswick cedar shingles are selling in Boston at \$2.85 to \$2.95. Wash-ington cedars are held at \$3.

The steamer Winnifred sailed from St. John, N.B., last week for Newport, with a cargo of 1,051 standards of deals.

The schooner Defiance is loading lumber at Barret, B.C., for Sydney, Australia. This is the first vessel to load at Barret since the new mills there have been completed.

The ship Ruby cleared from West Bay, N.S., for Liverpool on August 29th with 1,028,488 feet of deals and 124,985 feet of deal ends, shipped by M. L. Tucker for W. M. McKay.

A report from Ottawa states that there is a great scarcity of men for the lumber business. Ritchie & Co., of Aylmer, are unable to get sufficient men to run their mills day and night as intended.

A combination of lumber interests has been formed by the representatives of the various saw mills in the Yukon district. The prices of lumber as agreed upon are as follows: Rough lumber, \$85; dressed, two sides, \$120; four sides, beaded, etc., for ceiling and such purposes, \$125. It is said that recently rough lumber was selling as low as \$65, hence the combine.

A despatch from Kippewa regarding lumbering operations says: The coming winter's operations are already commenced in this district by the different lumber firms. A. A. Buell & Co. have about 125 men in on their Ostobomas limit; the Hawkesbury Lumber Co., about 50 on White Pine river; the Hull Lumber Company, about 100 on Sunny Side limit; McLaughlin Bros., about 60 on Wolfe lake, with two more gangs to go in yet.

A Buffalo report says: There are a good many red cedar shingles reported coming east by the package-freight lake lines, but it has come to be so general to buy direct that most of the supplies that land here go directly through to eastern points. The use of 18-inch cuts has been fairly given up, the consumer preferring a fairly good 16-inch for most purposes. White pine still leads slightly in price and for the best 16-inch the price is now about \$3.33.

Following is a comparative statement of timber measured and culled at Quebec up to 4th September, as reported by the Supervisor of Cullers:

	1898.	1899.	1900.
Waney White Pine.....	1,651,913	1,612,562	1,366,183
White Pine.....	1,047,395	544,181	505,666
Red Pine.....	217,310	159,511	60,796
Oak.....	844,266	514,763	429,302
Elm.....	471,077	446,408	586,031
Ash.....	34,532	56,543	81,227
Basswood.....			241
Butternut.....	955	60	142
Tamarac.....		415	71
Birch and Maple.....	106,592	231,946	392,149

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Your correspondent has obtained some information regarding the cost of producing lumber which may be of interest to readers of THE LUMBERMAN.

A prominent wholesale grocer of Ottawa states that the all-round advance in provisions over last year's prices is 12%. Japan teas have advanced 4 cents a pound or about 25%. Sugar has advanced 3 cent a pound or 12%. Molasses have advanced like sugar about 12%. Flour, pork and peas, however, are at the same figure as last year, and may be secured even a little lower. Codfish also remains at last year's figure, but herring may be considerably higher. Baking powder and all canned goods, including vegetables, remain at the old figure according to Ottawa quotations. Raisins, currants and figs show a sharp advance of 12% and are likely to go higher, but prunes remain at the same prices quoted for last year's supplies. Coal oil has advanced about 5%, and soap has gone up fully 20%. Woodenware, pails, tubs, etc., also show a slight advance. Owing to the advance in the price of cotton, overalls, smocks, topshots, and all lines of duck and cotton clothing will be about 20% higher than

last year. Coarse woolen goods, socks, shirts, etc., have declined in price, and may go about 5% below last year's prices. This includes heavy woolen clothing. Though thread has advanced 30%, the supply of coarse wool looks to be a large one, hence the decline. There is no change from last year's prices in different lines of leather. Moccasins, shoe packs, and heavy boots have not advanced in price, while harness, covers, etc., are also quoted on the same terms as last year. The principal advance in hardware and iron goods has been in axes, which are quoted at from 20% to 25% above the prices ruling last season. Cant hooks have advanced 10%, and files the same. Saws, however, have shown no such movement, and are selling at the old figures. During the recent easy movement in iron, horse shoes have declined 10% in price, and nails are also quoted at a lower figure than last season. Stoves and stove fixtures and other iron goods do not seem to show any advance.

The local labor market is furnishing difficulties for the lumber kings. Work is plentiful on account of the recent fire and general activity, and even last year's high figures are being eclipsed. An all-round advance of from 20% to 30% is in sight.

The demand is greater than it was last year, and good men are commanding high figures. Foremen are being offered as high as \$50 to \$55 a month, log cutters \$26 to \$28, teamsters \$24 to \$26, road makers and shanty hands \$20 to \$23, loaders \$1 to \$1.25 a day, and cooks \$40 to \$45 a month.

It is stated that some men were sent up last season who were unfit for the work, and hence a more careful selection is being made this year, which in itself has a tendency to advance wages.

POSSIBILITY OF AN OVERSTOCK.

The Timber Trades Journal, of London, Eng., publishes in its last issue the following as a warning to American shippers of lumber:

The demand for American hardwood lumber has recently shown signs of slackening, and stocks are accumulating at the receiving ports. Prices, too, have given way on one or two descriptions. Prime qualities in logs and lumber maintain their position and always will do so, and the accumulation of stock consists mainly of lower qualities and neglected dimensions. Black walnut logs and lumber of good quality and useful sizes are low in stock; in fact, there is not a prime log of walnut in first hands in London at the present moment. It has been stated that there are signs of a revival of the vogue of black walnut in the furniture trade of the States, which, if true, would practically stop the export trade. Those best acquainted with the remaining forest supply think the revival of home consumption impossible at the present day. The trees now growing are too scattered and too few to keep up the supply for a large regular consumption such as would be required for the American furniture trade. There has been a decline in the prices of hardwoods in the States during the past few months, as a result of the falling off in the demand. The inflated prices of the last year or two have had the same effect there as the present high prices are exercising here, that is, they cause a curtailment of the consumption. The drop in demand and prices may be only temporary, and a reaction from the feverish demand of last year; it is, however, having its effect on the export trade, and it would seem that a period of indiscriminate consignments to this market has again set in, which in part accounts for the the accumulation of stocks alluded to. We hear that considerable stocks are awaiting shipment at all the export points on the Atlantic seaboard, as well as at the Southern ports. At Newport News quite recently there were over a hundred carloads of lumber which had been waiting over thirty days for shipment. Even now shipments are being sent over more rapidly than the market can absorb them. In the Millwall Dock Co.'s last half-yearly report it was stated that the arrivals of American lumber had increased lately to such an extent that it had been necessary to hire barges in which to store it, for lack of available shore accommodation. We would warn American-shippers against the consequence of heavy consignments, and recommend them to ship on contract only, or the bottom will again be knocked out of the market, and disastrous consequences will ensue.

A fire in the lumber district of Montreal on August 31st damaged the sash and door factory of Brouette and Aumont to the extent of \$18,000, and the lumber yard of Alex. McLaren to the extent of \$5,000. H. Lapointe & Son, lumber merchants, suffered a loss of \$500, and T. Brousseau \$100.

THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

The monthly timber report of Fraser & Co., Melbourne, reviews the Australian market as follows:

There is practically no change to report in the condition of the market since the issue of our last report on the second inst. Supplies to hand have been of no important character, though within the next four weeks there will likely be some fairly considerable addition to stocks of those classes of timber which are in most consumption in this market, and then we shall be in a better position to more accurately gauge the near future course at this end, both in respect to the demand and values generally. An unusual continuation of rainy weather in this our winter season has affected trade in the country districts, the bulk of business having been obtained from the town and suburban quarters, where contracts for building requirements have not been materially interfered with. Although the holdings in this city are by no means large, and while some importers have lately been endeavoring to sell various timber from cargoes shortly due, there has been but little disposition manifested, however, to buy just at present, although it is recognized that c.i.f. values are not likely to be lower in the near distant date. We do not look for improvement at this side upon existing values in scarcely any description of timber, but with judicious care being shown in the handling of shipments now on the way, there should be no reason why prices as given below should be altered to any important extent, with, however, the exception of Oregon lumber, as we fear from recent local movements that the present price of £8 per 1,000 feet super. for spot stocks will not be sustained when shipments shortly "to arrive" are being offered upon the market.

OREGON PINE.—Imports: 897,064 feet super. Arrival: Fresno, from Port Blakeley. About 300,000 feet of the above shipment was placed at £8 per 1,000 feet super. previous to and upon arrival at wharf. Lower quotations are being named for supplies to arrive by steamers and sailers, but so far no business has resulted. Stocks on hand are not of importance, but owing to unexpected early shipments by steamers having been arranged, buyers are not at present anxious to operate. A small cargo for here per the Wrestler, put into Sydney dismantled, and was sold at that port.

The schooner Transit has been chartered to load lumber at Chemainus, B. C., for Sydney, Australia, at 52s 6d.

Spiece's saw mill in Bayham, Ont., was destroyed by fire last week, together with 50,000 shingles and 20,000 feet of lumber.

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H. B. MURKIN, Contracting Agent.
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SHIPPING MATTERS.

Trans-atlantic timber charters are still limited by the stiff rates, still quotable at 115s to 117s 6d gulf to Liverpool, and to London 120s. Deal tonnage from the provinces is in request at 63s St. John to the west coast of England. Time boats are still in good demand with light offerings, at 10s to 10s 6d.

The Timber Trades Journal reports the following charters: 1,200 stds., St. John to West Coast Britain, end Aug., early Sept., 60s; 1,200 stds., Dalhousie to Clyde, 62s 6d to 63s 9d; 1,200 stds., St. John to London, 62s 6d; 800 stds., Quebec and a loading place to Cork, 67s 6d, deals 27s 6d per load timber; 1,200 stds., Miramichi to Glasgow, 67s 6d prompt; 800 stds., Miramichi to Glasgow, 67s 6d prompt; 60s reg., Miramichi to London, 62s 6d.

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