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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 12, 1900

No 34.

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PUBLISHED BY

The G. H. Mortimer Publishing Co'y
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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 lumber 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.

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CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO.

A problem which is now confronting lumbermen, and particularly white pine manufacturers, is the question of obtaining men for logging operations. It is said to be very difficult to secure good men for work in the woods, and as a result the standard of wages has advanced. Higher wages are being offered this fall than for many years past. Partly for this reason the production of logs during the coming winter will likely be smaller than last year, but as a considerable quantity of logs was this season hung up in the streams in the Georgian bay district, there will likely be a full stock for next year's operations.

Pine lumber is moving in moderate

volume, although trade is much less active than in the fall of last year. Considerable shipments are being made from the Georgian bay district to wholesale distributing yards in the Eastern States. The freight rate to Buffalo, which has been \$1.40 for some time, is now ten cents higher. In the Ottawa valley the trade shows signs of more activity. There has been a further decline in the price of pine lath, No. 1 now being quoted at \$2 to \$2.50, and No. 2 at \$1 to \$1.25.

There is much irregularity in hardwood prices, the larger mills holding firmly to recent lists, and the smaller mills being willing to accept considerably lower prices in order to effect sales. The demand has not shown any visible improvement.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Spruce lumber is feeling the effects of the excessive freight rates which have prevailed during the season. Manufacturers have been unable to effect sales, not on account of any lack of demand for export stock, but for the reason that shippers have not been able to make sales excepting for delivered stock. This condition has caused a slight weakening of the market, and will likely result in considerable stock intended for export being carried over until next spring. The Eastern States trade has been a little more active since the 1st of September, but is not taking any great quantity of stock. Cedar shingles are dull at about \$2.95 for No. 1 on Boston rate of freight. Local trade is being benefitted by the harbor improvement work at Montreal.

UNITED STATES.

The lumber trade of the United States is improving, but slowly. The volume of business is much less than at the corresponding period one year ago. In the east a stronger disposition is shown to buy for stocking up purposes, but the opinion seems to be gaining ground that there will be no important advance in prices, and consequently dealers are in no hurry to place orders. Prices on some grades seem to have weakened. At Saginaw, for instance, uppers and selects are reported to be selling about one dollar lower, A and B strips \$2 lower, and shaly clear stock from \$2 to \$3 lower than two weeks ago. It is probable, however, that in this particular market the stock of these grades is comparatively large. The situation at Buffalo has not changed. Lumber is believed to be selling at slightly lower figures than those quoted in our last list, but a determined effort is being made to prevent a general break. The high

prices asked at producing points offer little inducement for eastern wholesalers to sacrifice their stock. In Chicago pine piece stuff is firmer, selling at \$13 in cargo lots. Pine shingles are in short supply, selling at \$2.30 to \$2.40. No. 1 white pine lath brings from \$2.50 to \$3, and No. 2 mixed \$1.75, the demand being chiefly for lower grades.

A larger demand for hardwood is reported. Prices are firmer, and a good fall demand would likely bring about a slight advance. Hemlock prices are weak. The base price at Buffalo is about \$13.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Somewhat unsettled conditions characterize the British lumber market. Importers are not disposed to entertain free-on-board quotations owing to the difficulty of chartering vessels, but are quite willing to pay current prices for stock delivered at a British port. It is yet too early to speak definitely of next season's trade, but an early termination of the South African war would be certain to greatly improve the outlook. In the face of rather unfavorable conditions, the market is holding steady. For spruce deals it is predicted that an advance of at least ten shillings per standard will be made before the end of the year, owing to the high rates of freight. A few sales of 1st quality pine have been made at £30 per standard in docks. At recent auction sales pine and spruce have sold well considering the quality of the stock offered. Some first pine, 13 feet x 3 x 9 inches, sold at London, brought £25 15s per standard, and 3 x 9 in. third quality spruce, from Quebec, £10. Spruce battens have sold at £8 15s for 3 x 7/8 in. second quality, and £8 for third quality, c. i. f. London. There is a good demand for waney pine timber and the stock is light. Birch timber is dull and about two cents per cubic foot lower than one month ago.

STOCKS AND PRICES.

The bark "Culdoon," from St. John, N. B., with 330,000 feet of pine lumber, is reported ashore about 35 miles south of Miami.

The barks "Angelica" and "Florida" sailed from St. John, N. B., last week, with cargoes of deals, for Cardiff and Newport respectively.

The steamship "Vera" is loading a cargo of lumber at Hochelaga, Montreal, for the United Kingdom, on account of Dobell, Beckett & Company.

Pouppore & Malone, contractors for harbor improvements at Montreal, have given a contract to the Empire Lumber Company, of Buffalo, for 1,250,000 feet of

oak timber. The stock, it is said, will be secured in Arkansas.

M. Boyd & Company, of Bobcaygeon, Ont., are about to commence logging operations in Glamorgan township. They expect to get out 6,000,000 feet of logs during the coming winter.

Donald Fraser & Sons are reported to have 8,000,000 feet of lumber on wharves at Riviere de Loup and 2,000,000 feet in mill yards at Cabano, Que., being unable to ship the stock owing to scarcity of vessels.

Following is the result of a sale of wood goods held by W. & A. L. Crowe, at Dublin, Ireland, on August 23rd: 2nd Quebec spruce, 11 ft. 9x3, £15 15s; 13 ft. 9x3, £16 10s; 12 ft. 11x3, £16 15s. 3rd Quebec spruce, 12 ft. 9x3, £14 15s. Bay Verte spruce, 5x3, 6x3, 7x3 and 8x3, £12 to £13 5s; 9x3, £14 15s to £14. St. John spruce, 16 ft. 7x3, £15; 10 ft. 9x3 to 12 ft. 9x3, £14 15s; 14 ft. 10 17 ft. 9x3, £15 2s 6d; 18 ft. 9x3, £15 5s; 20 ft. 9x3, £16 6s 6d; 21 ft. 9x3, £16 7s 6d; 24 ft. and 25 ft. 9x3, £19 17s 6d; 11x3 up to 17 ft., £15 to £15 10s.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the Canada Lumberman.)

The export lumber business, which has been rather slack for the past six weeks, promises to improve shortly, now that the fall shipments are near at hand. Prices will probably advance, as the demand for various lines will increase. At this season American dealers commence to stock up their yards for the winter's trade, and hence a greater call is made on the Ottawa mills and shippers. Trade with Great Britain continues good, though shippers still complain of a dearth of ocean vessels, which has the effect of lessening and retarding shipments. Retailers report a steady, active local trade, the extensive building operations in Hull and Ottawa being accountable for this. All the planing mills and sash and door factories are rushed with orders. At W. C. Edwards & Co.'s mills a night gang is kept busy.

The principal subject of discussion in the local lumber circles centres on the advance in wages paid for the various classes of labor on the limits. N. Page, of Hull, who has sent several large gangs from that city, is offering \$30 a month and board for teamsters, \$27 and upwards for choppers, and from \$40 to \$50 for cooks. General hands are being offered \$27 a month and upwards. So far 300 men have been sent to Warren, Mattawa, and Temiscamingue for Mr. J. R. Booth.

Chitty & Co. are engaging men for the South River Lumber Co. at South river, the Eddy & Jordan Co. at Blind river, the Pembroke Lumber Co. at Petewawa, and the firm of A. & P. White at Dieux river. So far about 500 men have been engaged. The scarcity of suitable labor is greater this season than ever before, owing to the fact that high wages rule in the local labor market, where good workers are none too plentiful. As the different mills will run late this fall, it is not expected that relief can be afforded the lumber labour market for some months to come. A gentleman just returned from the Temiscamingue district states that first class choppers, able to manufacture square timber, are receiving \$40 to \$45 a month, and several of the mines in the neighborhood have had to shut down, as the men are leaving to work for Mr. J. R. Booth, getting out square timber. According to the Ottawa gentleman, lumbering operations promise to be very brisk in the Temiscamingue country during the coming season.

The present has been a particularly good season at all the mills on the Ottawa river. Mr. George H. Perley, who operates a large mill at Calumet, on the north shore line of the C. P. Ry., states that he expects a cut of 20,000,000 feet this season. The mill is running night and day, with large gangs. A great part of the output is being shipped to the British market.

Mr. W. C. Edward's mills at Rockland are a scene of increased activity, and the cut there also promises to exceed last year's. McLaren & McLaurin's mill at East Templeton, the McLaren and the Kelly mills at Buckingham, and the Owen

mill at Montebello, will rank well up in the cut along the Ottawa river.

It is now known definitely that Bailey's saw mill at Aylmer, which was recently destroyed by fire, will not be rebuilt. Mr. Bailey has purchased several mica mines, which will divide attention with his lumber and other interests. Mr. Bailey still believes that the fire which destroyed his mill was of incendiary origin. Last fall friction arose with certain labor leaders of Ottawa over the employment of a machinist by Mr. Bailey. A strike resulted, which, however, was arranged satisfactory. Some hint that the old labor trouble had more than a little to do with the destruction of the mill.

It was stated to-day that the sum of \$50,000 had been offered by American parties for Ayer's Pulp and Woolen Mills at Lachute, on the north shore line of the C.P.R. Railway. These mills have lately been refitted with new machinery, and are now considered amongst the best in that section.

The extensive buildings of the E. B. Eddy Co., at Hull, have been almost completed, and several are ready for occupation. The machinery for the large match factory has arrived, and is being installed this week. The machinery, which is of the most approved type, was manufactured in Barberton, Ohio. Part of the paper machinery has also arrived, together with the plant for the saw mill. It is expected that the buildings will all be completed in two months. In a month's time the match factory, saw mill and wood-working establishment will be fitted up and ready for active operations. The buildings differ considerably in style from those destroyed in the fire, and all are being made as fire-proof as possible. The large addition to the sulphite mills has also been completed, and is now being fitted with the latest machinery.

Rev. Father Laniel, a missionary priest who works about Barrier's Post, 200 miles north of the Gatineau district, states that the lumbermen have penetrated the northern wilds, and will carry on extensive operations for the first time during the coming season. The growth of pine, the missionary states, is very good, though rather stunted on account of the severity of the climate. Much of the timber, when cut down, although promising a good cut, is found to be defective, being decayed.

Mr. W. C. Edwards, M.P., the well known lumber king, will again contest Russell County in the Liberal interests, with a good prospect of re-election. Mr. George H. Perley, another well known lumberman, may run in the Conservative interests in Argenteuil County.

Mr. Wm. Bowden, bookkeeper of the Hull Lumber Company, at Ottawa a gentleman well and favorably known in lumber circles, was elected Provincial Prior of the Knights Templars, for the districts of Ottawa and Kingston at the convention just held in the latter city. Before election Mr. Bowden held the office of Grand Constable.

Mr. W. H. McAuliffe, lumber merchant, of Ottawa, has established yards and office at the corner of Duke and Britannia sts., near the Chaudiere. Mr. McAuliffe's former place of business was on Catherine street, near Bank street.

Ottawa, September 10th, 1900.

THE GLASGOW MARKET.

Allison, Cousland & Co.'s monthly timber market report of September 1st reviews the Glasgow market as follows:

Business during the past month has been in a satisfactory condition. Stocks in first hands are light. Imports have been moderate, and consisted largely of spruce. Most parcels were disposed of ex quay at good figures. Prices, all round, are very firm, and likely to continue, the only complaint being that some merchants do not take full advantage of their present position, and, having purchased cheaper earlier in the season, are content to sell to consumers at prices they may yet find it difficult to replenish themselves at. From all accounts the shipbuilding trade is now awakening from the last few months depression, and many new orders are reported. During the month 33,620 tons of shipping were launched, as compared with 37,816 tons last year, and the new work is estimated at 70,000 tons, as against 43,000 tons at this time last year.

WANRY WHITE PINE.—Owing, no doubt, to the absence of import, there has been, during the past month, much increased demand, and some fair lines have been placed. Stocks must now be considerably reduced. Pine wood is quoted at 2s 9d to 3s; 2nd class, 18d to 2s 2d per c. ft.

RED PINE.—Small sales of F.A.Q. wood have been made at 17d to 18d per c. ft., and the stock on hand is ample for present requirements.

OAK.—There has been no business of any importance.

ELM.—The stock must now be nearly exhausted. New arrivals should meet with a ready and satisfactory sale.

BIRCH.—Stocks are heavy, and the market is decidedly weaker. 15 to 16 inch wood is quoted at 17d to 20d per c. ft.

ASH.—Several parcels have arrived per liners, and have been disposed of ex quay at good prices.

PINE.—Firsts—There has been little import, most parcels have sold ex quay. Broad are quoted at £28 17s 6d to £30 18s 9d. Undersized, £20 12s 6d to £22 13s 9d per St. Pet. Std. Seconds—There is practically no stock. Thirds—There is a moderate demand, and what has been sold has realized good figures. Quotations—

Regulars, 11 inch and up, £13 15s to £16 10s. Undersized—10 13s 1d to £11 St. Pet. Std. Fourths—The demand is good, parcels arriving for the most part being sold ex quay. Regulars are quoted at £10 6s 3d to £11. Undersized, £8 11s 10d to £8 19s 9d per St. Pet. Std.

SPRUCE.—The stock is very small, and anything arriving realizes good prices. Quotations—£7 11s 2d to £9 5s 7d per St. Pet. Std.

RED PINE continues to sell slowly. Holders are firm in their ideas, however, and prices are unchanged.

NEW BRUNSWICK BIRCH.—There has been fewer sales and prices are rather easier. 15 to 16 inch wood is quoted at 17d to 18d per c. ft. Planks are in good request at 1s to 13d per cubic foot.

N. B. DEALS, BATTENS AND BOARDS.—There is a good demand, and prices are firm at £8 11s 3d to £10 6s 3d per St. Pet. Std.

N. B. SPRUCE.—The import has been considerable, but with an active demand good business has been done and prices well maintained at £7 11s 3d to £10 6s 3d per St. Pet. Std.

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