

The Herald

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Lumber Trade Conditions

Although widely varying reports are received as to the volume of actual business being transacted—some dealers claiming that sales are large and steadily increasing, while others state that demand is spasmodic and not altogether satisfactory—sentiment, taken as a whole is decidedly cheerful and there is little doubt but that the entire situation presents a very favorable contrast to that ruling a month or two ago. The marked expansion in the permits taken out for new construction, especially in the suburbs and in the outlying districts of the city itself, where lumber is mostly used for building, has had a stimulating effect and many inquiries, not a few of which result in the consummation of orders, are coming in from retailers who are encouraged to make liberal preparations for extensive consumption with the opening of spring. Considerable business is also being placed because of the fear that shortage of cars and the reported sold-up condition of the mills in the producing sections will militate against prompt deliveries later on. The improved situation is not peculiar to New York City, reports from all the leading centers of production and distribution indicating a general trend toward betterment, with demand becoming steadily more active and prices moving gradually upward. Practically all grades and varieties of lumber participate in the improvement, manufacturers of furniture and other consumers or hardwoods being prominently in the markets and taking substantial amounts of oak, ash, birch, walnut, maple and other woods, while the different pines, hemlock, spruce, cypress, etc., are being ordered more freely than for a long time past. Manufacturers of sashes, doors and interior trim, as a rule, say that while they are not especially busy they are doing better, and they express the opinion that the outlook for the immediate future has seldom been more encouraging at this period. The export end of the industry presents the most unfavorable aspect, for while foreign requirements are great the difficulties in the way of transportation prevent any extensive trade in this direction. How far shipments abroad are below normal is indicated by the latest figures of foreign commerce, which show that for the ten months ending October 31, 1915, total exports of wood and manufactures thereof amounted to only \$45,325,146 in value, as against \$68,904,895 for the same period the year before and \$100,076,690 in 1913. With any increase in shipping

facilities, however, the movement of lumber abroad will undoubtedly display immediate and very pronounced expansion.—*Dun's Review.*

The Progress of Library Service

That the prime function of a public library is to serve the public is an idea of comparatively recent date. This anomalous fact impresses itself upon the mind of anyone who reads the chapter of the last Report of the Commissioner of Education, in which Mr. George B. Utley reviews the library activities of the country during the last fiscal year. Considering the respectable age which scores of our public libraries have attained, it is indeed startling to learn that these institutions have just begun to utilize certain obvious means of making their resources easy of access to the people for whose benefit they are supposed to exist.

Mr. Melvil Dewey has traced the successive stages of accessibility thus: "1. Books to be consulted by only a favored few; 2, by any who paid the fee; 3, freely by all, but no book to leave the building. Then came loaning: 1, To the favored few; 2, to those who paid the fee; 3, and then this splendid modern conception of free as air or water to all. Now we are in the third stage of branch stations and deliveries by wagons, motors, messengers, express, or mail. The new parcel post greatly stimulated the bibliothecal imagination."

Although branch libraries are no novelty, they have lately developed in many ways. Branches and deposit stations have been established in schools, manufacturing plants, park field houses and playgrounds, department stores, fire and police stations, suburban drug and grocery stores, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. building, institutional churches, and elsewhere. In the city of Cleveland there are 547 such agencies for placing books at the disposal of the people, while Seattle has 406, and Portland, Ore., no less than 908 (scattered over the county.)

The public libraries of St. Paul and Wilmington, Del., have inaugurated the plan of delivering books by messenger, at a cost to the borrower of five cents a volume. The St. Louis Public Library, among others, now delivers books locally by parcel post, the borrower paying the postage by a deposit made in advance.

The variety of service rendered by public libraries is growing apace. Many libraries now lend both lantern-slides and lanterns. A free lantern slide bureau has recently been organized by the extension division of the University of Minnesota. The University of Wisconsin is about to form a library of moving-picture films to lend to schools and social centers throughout the State. The public library at Los Angeles has a sound-proof music room, equipped with pianos, where persons may try music before purchasing from the music stores. Numerous libraries lend music rolls, graphophone records, material for reflectoscopes, etc.

It is notable that from 60 to

75 per cent of those who patronize our large city libraries are either foreign-born or the children of foreigners. The leading library commissions send out traveling libraries in nearly every European language, while the principal city libraries have large collections in foreign languages. Thus, the Buffalo Public Library has about 15,000 volumes in Polish. The Cleveland library has special collections in seventeen languages. The first Chinese library in the United States has its headquarters in Chicago.—*Scientific American.*

BREEDERS WILL SHOW

One hundred of the finest Jersey cattle will be exhibited at the Polk county fair this fall, and special housing accommodations will be prepared as a result of action taken at the meeting of the Polk County American Jersey Cattle Club at Independence on Tuesday afternoon. About thirty-five members of the organization attended the meeting, at which a committee from the County Fair association was present to discuss the participation of Jersey breeders in the fair this fall. The committee, consisting of I. L. Patterson, A. L. Martin and W. V. Fuller, promised the breeders hearty co-operation from the fair management and agree to see that housing accommodation would be provided for at least 100 head of cattle. The committee will probably rent a large tent to provide stalls for the animals that the club members will bring to Dallas. The Jersey breeders' club appointed a committee, comprising F. J. Lynn, W. O. Morrow and C. P. Hembree, to meet with the executive committee of the fair association in Dallas next Monday. At this time premiums for the Jersey exhibits will be discussed and adopted, and the class of stock to be shown will be determined. If the fair board lives up to its part of the agreement the Jersey breeders have said they would they would confine their competition to ribbon premiums and that no cash outlay for prizes would be necessary.

At the meeting on Tuesday the club also decided to change the date of its annual Jersey cattle sale from the spring until the fall, and the date was set for October 10. It is believed that the change will mean greatly improved business at the sales, as the fall is a better time to buy. Buyers will have more ready money and therefore more buyers will attend the sale. The last event of this kind held at Independence was very successful, notwithstanding the fact that it was held in the spring of the year. One hundred head of register of merit Jerseys have already been entered for the sale this fall by some of the most noted Oregon breeders of Jersey cattle.

The club is entering upon what looks to be its most prosperous year and with every member interested and taking part in the work of the club much good is expected to result from the co-operative organization. Frank Loughary of Monmouth is president of the club and Ross Nelson of Independence is secretary.—*Observer.*

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