

has been brought under cultivation and seeded with cereals. We cannot tell yet what the harvest will be, but the indications are favorable so far for one of unusual abundance.

"So much for the extremes of the east and west, and we may say in general terms that the intervening sections of the country are in a prosperous condition. The surplus earnings of the past year are available for mercantile purposes, for they are in the channels of trade. The increased deposits in savings and other banks all over the country show this. There is abundance of capital, and as overblown credit has collapsed and the bubbles of overtrading have burst and been well nigh forgotten, this capital will find employment in sound business enterprises, producing a reaction from the stagnation which has existed. The sources of actual wealth have been unimpaired through all of the depression, and they have been steadily working out a recuperation which will be more and more manifest in the future. To be more specific, we will refer to building. The prices of building material and of wages have declined so much as to induce capital to seek that means of investment, and already preparations are making for the erection of a larger number of dwellings and business houses than usual during the coming season in the cities and in the country. This will make a more active market for brick, lumber, hardware and glass, and it will give employment to many men who are now idle.

"The manufacture of agricultural implements is beginning to feel the incentive an increased demand. The cotton and wollen mills are resuming business with the prospect that their productions will find a better market. For groceries there is always a good demand, but it is better when other interests are thriving. With the more general activity in business the railroads will increase their earnings and be able to renew their long neglected tracks and rolling stocks, which will increase the demand for iron and bring up that most depressed branch of business to a paying basis once more.

THE WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN will be largely improved during its coming year. No lumberman can afford to be without this publication.

THE PROGRESS IN LOGGING.

[From The Northwestern Lumberman.]

The present winter is an unfavorable one for logging throughout the white pine regions of the northwest. To this writing (Feb. 5th) we have reports from all of the prominent logging streams of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Commencing with the extreme northwest, the information runs about as follows:

On the Upper Mississippi and tributaries snow is plenty and a fair work is being done, only retarded by the intense cold which now prevails. The snow is abundant for hauling but not sufficient to base calculations upon for driving. It is estimated that the winter's cut will reach 150,000,000 feet. But a small quantity of old stock is being carried over however, and with the usual contingencies of driving it is safe to say that the Minneapolis mills will not be over stocked, for the coming manufacturing season.

Upon the St. Croix river, if the winter continues favorable as at present, the cut will reach 120,000,000. A fair work considering the intense cold, was done during January, with plenty of snow in most localities for successful hauling.

Upon the Chippewa river, in Wisconsin, about the same state of things exists. If anything a little less than an average work is being done, according to our reports.

On Black river in the same state, our correspondent says the estimate of amounts to be banked this winter, have been gradually raised as the intentions of operators were developed, the last figures being 142,000,000, provided the winter be propitious. But very little snow fell upon the river in December, and but very little could be done in the way of banking, except on old, short, well made roads, when about half work could be done. During January more snow fell, enabling about two-thirds the usual amount of work to be accomplished. From the best data obtainable, February 1st, we estimate 42,000,000 feet banked to that date. There is about ten inches of snow in the pineries but it is very dry and "mealy" and two or three warm days would use it up. Unless the balance of the banking season be more favorable the Black river loggers will hardly put into the stream over 110,000,000 feet.

Upon the Wisconsin river, less work is being done than for some seasons past, two reports from different points in the river agreeing in this. It is estimated that not more than one-half the amount of logs have been banked to date which were at

the same time last winter. The snow has been light and dry, and not enough on the river below Stevens Point for good sleighing until January 20th. February 2d, the date of our report a heavy fall of snow was in progress.

From the Wolf river we have thus far been unable to obtain reports. From a report in the Green Bay Advocate we learn that about 121,000,000 feet will be put in on the entire river this winter.

In Michigan it is evident that a fair average stock of logs is being cut. Compared with the capacity of the mills it is not probable that there will be an overstock. The amount of old logs in the state is much less than last year, as also the amount of manufactured lumber is considerably less. At Manistee about the same amount of logs will be cut as during last winter, and the amount of old stock being small, the product of the Manistee mills for '75 will not vary largely from the preceding year. Of the Ludington, (Pere Marquette river) about the same language may be used.

At Muskegon, the river and mill boons were about cleaned up—less than 10,000,000 feet of lumber and logs remaining on hand January 1st. The loggers, however, have "laid out" for more new stock than was put through the mills in '74—all told. The estimates of the amount really to be cut on this river vary somewhat, the maximum figure being 400,000,000 feet the minimum 320,000,000. The higher figures will hardly be reached. Upon the upper river the logging jobs are well advanced, fully as well as usual at this time, about all cut and skidded, and the hauling nearly half completed. Snow is plenty but with very cold weather which makes hard hauling.

From Flat river, the principal source of supply to the mills at Grand Haven and vicinity, and main lumbering tributary of the Grand river, our correspondent writes:

"Notwithstanding the unsatisfactory condition of the business for the last two years, lumbering has been unusually active on the Flat river this season. The cut will be something over 90,000,000, and is with one exception, the season of 1871—5, the largest ever made. The cut last season was 52,000,000. Work commenced in the woods at least a month earlier than usual, and the first of January found a majority of the logs cut and skidded. Hauling began the last week in December, and though the snow was very dry and light (not to exceed five inches) a good business has been done from the first.

About ten inches of snow has fallen at various times since, and as the weather has been uniformly cold, it is still on the ground. Though fifteen inches is a fair depth of snow, it is so exceedingly light and fleecy, that a few hours rain, or a bright warm day, would suspend operations completely.

"At the present writing, Feb. 2d, there is probably, 65,000,000 banked, and if the sleighing continues until the 20th inst., the logs on long hauls will be put in. More than twenty-five per cent of the logs put in this stream, the present season, are hauled four miles and upward. In quality they will average better than any previously cut, there having been little or no demand for common grades.

"Of the 90,000,000 going in this season, something over 70,000,000 will be manufactured at Grand Haven, about 12,000,000 at Grand Rapids, and the balance at Greenville, Belden and other points on Flat river.

"Unless we have a heavier body of snow than at present, or an extremely wet spring there may be some difficulty in starting the rear of the drive, as a large per cent. of the logs are being banked on the upper sections of the stream. No serious difficulty is anticipated however.

Upon streams tributary to the Saginaw Valley, it is estimated that 355,000,000 feet were skidded and hauled February 1st. A good fall and early winter for skidding permitted the preparation of a large amount ahead of the teams, and the latter have not yet caught up, although, if the good sleighing noted at the time or our report, Feb. 2d, should continue twenty days the teams will be nearly or quite even with the choppers. Snow is plenty and good hauling is reported in all sections of the district, more logs being cut than to the same date last year.

New French Life-saving Raft.

An extraordinary safety-raft has recently been invented in France. It is described as large enough to support from 400 to 600 persons, as neither incumbering nor requiring any alteration in the arrangement of vessels, and as needing only a minute or two to inflate and launch it. It is an air-tight mattress, with a surface of nearly 900 square feet, inflated in one minute it is said, from a reservoir fixed in the engine-room and always charged with air under a pressure of fifteen atmospheres. When not in use, it is rolled up, and takes no more room than a boat. When inflated