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PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS ON HAND OF SAWMILLS
IN BRITISH COLUMBIAJanuary, 1948

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 216,201 M ft. in January, 1948, as compared with 182,663 M ft. in January, 1947, an increase of 18.4 p.c. over the previous year and an increase of 16.2 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 79.2 p.c. of the total, showed an increase of 12.9 p.c. over January, 1947, and the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 20.8 p.c., showed an increase of 45.2 p.c. Shipments in January, 1948 totalled 204,461 M ft., as compared with 182,086 M ft. the previous year, an increase of 12.3 p.c., with Coast mills registering an increase of 9.4 p.c., and Interior mills an increase of 22.6 p.c. Total shipments for January decreased by 1.5 p.c. over the December figure of 207,611 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of January, 1948 amounted to 248,406 M ft., as compared with 239,943 M ft. the previous year and 214,403 M ft. at the end of December. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 168,209 M ft., while Interior mills showed 80,197 M ft.

Summary Figures

Table 1 gives a comparative summary of production, shipments and stocks of sawn lumber and ties for all British Columbia sawmills for January, 1948 and January and December, 1947. Details by species are given for production and stocks, while shipments are shown by destination. Total production increased from 182,663 M ft. in January, 1947 to 186,095 M ft. in December and to 216,201 M ft. in January, 1948. Shipments totalled 204,461 M ft. in January of this year, 182,086 M ft. in January of the previous year and 207,611 M ft. in December. Stocks on hand at sawmills decreased from 239,943 M ft. in January, 1947 to 214,403 M ft. in December, but increased to 248,406 M ft. in January, 1948.

Production

Table 2 give particulars of lumber and tie production for Coast mills and Interior mills separately, and also shows separately the production of lumber and ties, by species. Production of sawn lumber in Coast mills amounted to 160,656 M ft. in January, as compared with 41,260 M ft., reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 10,670 M ft. in January, as compared with 3,615 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 79.2 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in January, 1948, as compared with 83.1 p.c. in January, 1947 and 79.0 p.c. in December.

Shipments

Table 3 gives details of lumber and tie shipments, by months, for Coast mills and Interior mills separately. Shipments by truck, by rail and waterborne are shown for each Canadian province, to points in the United States, to the United Kingdom and to other countries, for all mills reporting. Total estimated shipments of non-reporting mills are also given. It is to be noted, however, that some lumber originally reported as having been shipped to points in British Columbia may have been reshipped to other provinces or exported by the purchasers and reported by them also, thereby causing a certain amount of duplication.

Shipments of Coast mills amounted to 155,524 M ft. in January, 1948 as compared with 142,181 M ft. in the corresponding month of the previous year and 166,819 in December, while the Interior mills shipped 48,937 M ft., 39,905 M ft. and 40,792 M ft. during the corresponding months. Of all shipments actually reported for January, 43.1 p.c. went to points in Canada, 23.4 p.c. to points in the United States, 27.1 p.c. to the United Kingdom, and 5.8 p.c. to other countries. Shipments to unspecified destinations accounted for the remainder (0.6 p.c.). Waterborne shipments accounted for 34.6 p.c. of the total, while 46.7 p.c. went by rail, about 18.1 p.c. by truck and 0.6 p.c. by unspecified carriers.

Stocks

Table 4 gives particulars of stocks of lumber and ties at sawmills, by months. It distinguishes between stocks sold but not shipped and stocks unsold, and between stocks at Coast and Interior mills, by species. Total stocks at Coast mills in January of this year amounted to 168,209 M ft., as compared with 181,447 M ft. in January, 1947, and 150,101 M ft. in December. Interior mills stocks increased from 58,496 M ft. in January, 1947 to 64,302 M ft. in December and to 80,197 M ft. in January, 1948. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 32.9 p.c. of the total in January, 1948, as compared with 26.3 p.c. in January, 1947 and 33.3 p.c. in December for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were respectively, 80.0, 65.3 and 80.4.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of January and December, 1947 and January, 1948, for Coast mills only. Similar information is not collected from Interior mills and no attempt has been made to estimate orders on hand of non-reporting mills on the Coast. Destination and mode of shipments are shown in this table, which also gives total lumber purchases reported by some mills. Total orders on hand at the end of January, 1948, amounted to 533,163 M ft., as compared with 475,056 M ft. in January and 480,600 M ft. in December, 1947. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 4,335 M ft. in January, 1948, 6,671 M ft. in January, 1947, and 7,900 M ft. in December.

Active Mills Reporting

Table 6 gives the number of active mills reporting each month, for the Coast and Interior of British Columbia. The mills reporting for January accounted for 87.7 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1945, and the percentages for January and December, 1947 were 91.6 p.c. and 87.8 p.c., respectively. It is hoped that the compilation will eventually include all mills in the 500,000 feet and over classification.

The co-operation of the British Columbia Lumber Manufacturers' Association, Western Lumber Manufacturers' Association of Canada, Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association and Northern Interior Lumbermen's Association in the collection of these statistics is gratefully acknowledged.

Table 1. - Comparative Summary of Production, Shipments and Stocks of Lumber and Ties of British Columbia Sawmills, January, 1948.

	1948	1947	
	January	January	December
	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.
PRODUCTION			
Douglas Fir	105,330	97,186	95,749
Hemlock	49,420	40,578	42,863
Balsam Fir	1,204	983	1,408
Red Cedar	20,134	20,951	22,281
Spruce	23,195	15,204	14,169
White Pine	7,528	1,011	1,977
Ponderosa Pine	1,955	1,208	1,693
Lodgepole Pine	517	417	401
All other softwoods	5,541	3,895	4,335
Total Softwoods	214,824	181,433	184,876
Red Alder	525	331	391
Maple	294	221	320
Birch	76	57	79
Cottonwood	482	621	429
All other hardwoods	-	-	-
Total hardwoods	1,377	1,230	1,219
Total softwoods and hardwoods.	216,201	182,663	186,095
SHIPMENTS			
To: Points in Canada	78,227	63,253	74,291
Points in U.S.A.	42,470	26,675	33,586
United Kingdom	49,069	40,709	57,988
Other countries	10,577	35,907	21,323
Destination not specified ..	1,052	548	1,239
Total shipments reported	181,395	167,092	188,427
Estimate of shipments of non-reporting mills	23,066	14,994	19,184
Total shipments reported and estimated	204,461	182,086	207,611
STOCKS ON HAND			
	31 January, 1948	31 January, 1947	31 December, 1947
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
Douglas Fir	109,158	115,625	100,912
Hemlock	48,720	50,885	39,222
Balsam Fir	1,601	1,482	1,597
Red Cedar	21,539	22,042	22,579
Spruce	42,546	29,303	29,859
White Pine	7,596	9,550	5,786
Ponderosa Pine	7,563	4,737	7,549
Lodgepole Pine	1,133	628	996
All other softwoods	7,127	4,362	4,497
Total softwoods	246,983	238,614	212,997
Red Alder	377	345	335
Maple	282	233	320
Birch	82	108	82
Cottonwood	676	643	669
All other hardwoods	-	-	-
Total hardwoods	1,423	1,329	1,406
Total softwoods and hardwoods.	248,406	239,943	214,403

Table 2. - Lumber and Ties Sawn
January, 1948

Species	COAST MILLS			INTERIOR MILLS		
	Reported	Estimated	Total	Reported	Estimated	Total
	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.
<u>Lumber</u>						
Douglas Fir	82,220	4,061	86,281	6,293	3,641	9,934
Hemlock	43,810	903	44,713	1,684	311	1,995
Balsam Fir	277	120	397	374	417	791
Red Cedar	17,931	842	18,773	573	322	895
Spruce	1,785	379	2,164	12,382	8,528	20,910
White Pine	6,653	40	6,693	574	261	835
Ponderosa Pine	-	3	3	1,044	896	1,940
Lodgepole Pine	-	3	3	133	238	371
All other softwoods .	335	2	337	1,565	1,950	3,515
Total, softwoods ...	153,011	6,353	159,364	24,622	16,564	41,186
Red Alder	337	188	525	-	-	-
Maple	166	128	294	-	-	-
Birch	5	50	55	5	5	10
Cottonwood	147	271	418	1	63	64
All other hardwoods .	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	655	637	1,292	6	68	74
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	153,666	6,990	160,656	24,628	16,632	41,260
<u>Ties</u>						
Douglas Fir	6,727	704	7,431	771	913	1,684
Hemlock	2,578	76	2,654	8	50	58
Balsam Fir	-	-	-	-	16	16
Red Cedar	-	465	465	-	1	1
Spruce	-	62	62	-	59	59
White Pine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	-	12	12
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	-	143	143
All other softwoods ..	25	33	58	1,282	349	1,631
Total, softwoods ...	9,330	1,340	10,670	2,061	1,543	3,604
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birch	-	-	-	-	11	11
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	-	-	-	-	11	11
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	9,330	1,340	10,670	2,061	1,554	3,615
Lumber and Ties	162,996	8,330	171,326	26,689	18,186	44,875

Table 3. - Shipments of Sawn Lumber and Ties
January, 1948

	By Truck (Local Sales) M ft.b.m.	By Rail M ft.b.m.	Waterborne M ft. b.m.	Total Shipments M ft.b.m.
COAST MILLS				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	29,100	4,724	504	34,328
Alberta		2,055	xxxxxx	2,055
Saskatchewan		1,210	xxxxxx	1,210
Manitoba		3,113	xxxxxx	3,113
Ontario		10,613	-	10,613
Quebec		3,403	-	3,403
New Brunswick		604	-	604
Nova Scotia		549	-	549
Prince Edward Island		135	-	135
Total for Canada	29,100	26,406	504	56,010
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		398	1,880	2,278
Atlantic Ports		287	2,281	2,568
Other points, by rail		26,793	xxxxxx	26,793
Total for U.S.A.		27,478	4,161	31,639
United Kingdom	x	738	47,799	48,537
Other countries	x	208	10,315	10,523
Destination or carrier not specified				1,052
Total shipments reported	29,100	54,830	62,779	147,761
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				7,763
Total shipments, reported and estimated				155,524
INTERIOR MILLS				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	3,689	3,505	-	7,194
Alberta	47	2,444	xxxxxx	2,491
Saskatchewan		2,307	xxxxxx	2,307
Manitoba		2,734	xxxxxx	2,734
Ontario		6,719	-	6,719
Quebec		722	-	722
New Brunswick		27	-	27
Nova Scotia		23	-	23
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Total for Canada	3,736	18,481	-	22,217
Points in U.S.A.				
Pacific Ports		498	-	498
Atlantic Ports		172	-	172
Other points, by rail		10,161	xxxxxx	10,161
Total for U.S.A.		10,831	-	10,831
United Kingdom	x	532	-	532
Other countries	x	54	-	54
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	3,736	29,898	-	33,634
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				15,303
Total shipments, reported and estimated				48,937

x Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Port.

Table 4. - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills
January, 1948.

Species	COAST MILLS			INTERIOR MILLS		
	Reported	Estimated	Total	Reported	Estimated	Total
	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.
SOLD (but not shipped)						
Douglas Fir	62,455	3,139	65,594	1,594	1,632	3,226
Hemlock	26,343	645	26,988	931	129	1,060
Balsam Fir	114	79	193	6	155	161
Red Cedar	14,253	861	15,114	681	115	796
Spruce	1,384	290	1,674	3,775	3,077	6,852
White Pine	2,044	27	2,071	960	93	1,053
Ponderosa Pine	-	2	2	1,225	326	1,551
Lodgepole Pine	-	2	2	7	137	144
All other softwoods .	371	23	394	183	824	1,007
Total, softwoods ..	106,964	5,068	112,032	9,362	6,488	15,850
Red Alder	176	124	300	-	-	-
Maple	146	84	230	-	-	-
Birch	10	33	43	-	6	6
Cottonwood	96	179	275	200	22	222
All other hardwoods .	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	428	420	848	200	28	228
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	107,392	5,488	112,880	9,562	6,516	16,078
UNSOLD						
Douglas Fir	26,401	1,539	27,940	5,891	6,507	12,398
Hemlock	18,536	316	18,852	1,305	515	1,820
Balsam Fir	86	39	125	504	618	1,122
Red Cedar	4,269	422	4,691	478	460	938
Spruce	183	142	325	21,427	12,268	33,695
White Pine	2,486	13	2,499	1,600	373	1,973
Ponderosa Pine	-	1	1	4,710	1,299	6,009
Lodgepole Pine	-	1	1	440	546	986
All other softwoods .	650	11	661	1,779	3,286	5,065
Total, softwoods ..	52,611	2,484	55,095	38,134	25,872	64,006
Red Alder	16	61	77	-	-	-
Maple	11	41	52	-	-	-
Birch	-	16	16	-	23	23
Cottonwood	1	88	89	-	90	90
All other hardwoods .	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	28	206	234	-	113	113
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	52,639	2,690	55,329	38,134	25,985	64,119
Sold and Unsold	160,031	8,178	168,209	47,696	32,501	80,197

Table 5. - Distribution of Orders on Hand at End of January, 1948, and Lumber Purchased from Other Mills During Those Months (Coast Mills Only)

	Month ending:-		
	1948	1947	
	31 January	31 January	31 December
	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.
<u>ORDERS ON HAND</u>			
<u>For shipment to points in British Columbia</u>			
Local	29,172	33,330	25,337
Coastwise and interior	8,465	9,090	8,604
Total	37,637✓	42,420	33,941
<u>For shipment by rail to:</u>			
Prairie Provinces	19,656	27,023	17,170
Eastern Provinces	40,287	25,526	37,149
United States of America	45,949	25,948	40,777
Total	105,892	78,497	95,096
<u>For waterborne shipment to :</u>			
California	300	-	-
U.S. Atlantic Ports	6,382	-	1,460
Eastern Canada	330	3,330	-
Export Markets	382,622	350,809	350,103
Total	389,634	354,139	351,563
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND	533,163	475,056	480,600
	1948	1947	
	January	January	December
			M ft.b.m.
<u>LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER MILLS</u>	4,335	6,671	7,900

Table 6. - Number of Active Mills Reporting, January 1948.

	1948	1947	
	January	January	December
	No.	No.	No.
Coast	111	93	116
Interior	120	83	102
Total, British Columbia	231	176	218

A few returns received after compilations were closed have been omitted.

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