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PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS ON HAND OF SAWMILLS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

February, 1948

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 210,468 M ft. in February, 1948, as compared with 189,312 M ft. in February, 1947, an increase of 11.2 p.c. over the previous year but a decrease of 2.7 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 79.8 p.c. of the total, showed an increase of 9.0 p.c. over the same month the previous year, and the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 20.2 p.c., showed an increase of 20.7 p.c. Shipments in February, 1948 totalled 214,183 M ft., as compared with 193,325 M ft. the previous year, an increase of 10.8 p.c., with Coast mills registering an increase of 7.4 p.c., and Interior mills an increase of 24.4 p.c. Total shipments for February increased by 4.8 p.c. over the January figure of 204,461 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of February, 1948 amounted to 255,573 M ft., as compared with 230,700 M ft. the previous year and 248,406 M ft. at the end of January of this year. Coast mills reported stocks totaling 184,981 M ft., while Interior mills showed 70,592 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 February, 1947 and 1948, and January, 1947 and 1948. 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 to 189,312 M ft. in February of 1947 and to 216,201 M ft. in January, 1948 but decreased the following month to 210,468 M ft. Shipments totalled 204,461 M ft. in January and 214,183 M ft. in February of this year as compared with 182,086 M ft. and 193,325 M ft. during the corresponding months last year. Stocks on hand at sawmills decreased from 239,943 M ft. in January, 1947 to 230,700 M ft. in February, but increased to 248,406 M ft. in January, 1948 and to 255,573 M ft. in February.

Production

Table 2 gives 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 159,323 M ft. in February, as compared with 39,163 M ft., reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 8,698 M ft. in February, as compared with 3,284 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 79.8 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in February, 1948, as compared with 81.4 p.c. the previous year. The percentages for Coast Mills during January, 1948 and 1947, respectively, were 79.2 p.c. and 83.1 p.c.

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 166,358 M ft. in February, 1948 and 155,524 M ft. in January as compared with 154,874 M ft. and 142,181 M ft. in the corresponding months of the previous year, while the Interior mills shipped 47,825 M ft., and 48,937 M ft. in 1948, and 38,451 M ft. and 39,905 M ft. during the corresponding months of the previous year. Of all shipments actually reported for February, 45.8 p.c. went to points in Canada, 26.6 p.c. to points in the United States, 18.5 p.c. to the United Kingdom, and 8.4 p.c. to other countries. Shipments to unspecified destinations accounted for the remainder (0.7 p.c.). Waterborne shipments accounted for 33.1 p.c. of the total, while 46.4 p.c. went by rail, about 19.8 p.c. by truck and 0.7 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 and February of this year amounted to 168,209 M ft., and 184,981 M ft., as compared with 181,447 M ft. and 176,600 M ft. in January, and February of 1947. Interior mills stocks decreased from 58,496 M ft. in January, 1947 to 54,100 M ft. in February, 1947, and from 80,197 M ft. in January, 1948 to 70,592 M ft. in February, 1948. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 34.1 p.c. of the total in February, 1948, as compared with 25.0 p.c. in February, 1947 for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were respectively, 77.9 and 67.9.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of January and February, 1947 and 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 February, 1948, amounted to 529,149 M ft., as compared with 466,724 M ft. in February, 1947. Orders on hand at the end of January, 1948 and 1947, amounted to 533,163 M ft. and 475,056 M ft. respectively. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 4,968 M ft. in February, 1947, 4,791 M ft. in February, 1948, as compared with 6,671 M ft. in January, 1947, and 4,335 M ft. in January, 1948.

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 February accounted for 89.1 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1945, compared with 90.4 p.c. for the previous year. The percentages for January 1947 and 1948 were 91.6 and 87.7 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, February, 1948.

	February		January		2 Months	
	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
PRODUCTION						
Douglas Fir	103,980	103,761	105,330	97,186	209,310	200,947
Hemlock	48,151	34,692	49,420	40,578	97,571	75,270
Balsam Fir	1,288	935	1,204	983	2,492	1,918
Red Cedar	23,265	21,083	20,134	20,951	43,399	42,034
Spruce	22,356	19,133	23,195	15,204	45,551	34,337
White Pine	2,468	2,663	7,528	1,011	9,996	3,674
Ponderosa Pine	1,934	1,384	1,955	1,208	3,889	2,592
Lodgepole Pine	530	575	517	417	1,047	992
All other softwoods	5,355	3,989	5,541	3,895	10,896	7,884
Total softwoods	209,327	188,215	214,824	181,433	424,151	369,648
Red Alder	334	309	525	331	859	640
Maple	270	152	294	221	564	373
Birch	69	55	76	57	145	112
Cottonwood	468	581	482	621	950	1,202
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total hardwoods	1,141	1,097	1,377	1,230	2,518	2,327
Total softwoods and hardwoods.	210,468	189,312	216,201	182,663	426,669	371,975
SHIPMENTS						
To: Points in Canada	88,146	68,741	78,227	63,253	166,373	131,994
Points in U.S.A.	51,275	27,087	42,470	26,675	93,745	53,762
United Kingdom	35,689	41,864	49,069	40,709	84,758	82,573
Other countries	16,287	38,694	10,577	35,907	26,844	74,601
Destination not specified ..	1,261	575	1,052	548	2,313	1,123
Total shipments reported	192,638	176,961	181,395	167,092	374,033	344,053
Estimate of shipments of non-reporting mills	21,545	16,364	23,066	14,994	44,611	31,358
Total shipments reported and estimated	214,183	193,325	204,461	182,086	418,644	375,411
STOCKS ON HAND						
	February		January			
	1948	1947	1948	1947		
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.		
Douglas Fir	117,484	113,266	109,158	115,625		
Hemlock	50,948	45,306	48,720	50,885		
Balsam Fir	1,479	1,237	1,601	1,482		
Red Cedar	25,222	21,952	21,539	22,042		
Spruce	41,387	28,332	42,546	29,303		
White Pine	7,105	9,210	7,596	9,550		
Ponderosa Pine	5,618	4,948	7,563	4,737		
Lodgepole Pine	953	655	1,133	628		
All other softwoods	3,978	4,573	7,127	4,362		
Total softwoods	254,174	229,479	246,983	238,614		
Red Alder	352	275	377	345		
Maple	240	221	282	233		
Birch	103	92	88	108		
Cottonwood	704	612	676	643		
All other hardwoods	-	21	-	-		
Total hardwoods	1,399	1,221	1,423	1,329		
Total softwoods and hardwoods.	255,573	230,700	248,406	239,943		

Table 2. - Lumber and Ties Sawn

February, 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.
Lumber						
Douglas Fir.....	83,837	3,641	87,478	5,891	3,337	9,228
Hemlock	42,441	1,196	43,637	1,330	287	1,617
Balsam Fir	454	110	564	446	241	687
Red Cedar	21,112	923	22,035	535	315	850
Spruce	1,734	515	2,249	12,203	7,750	19,953
White Pine	1,906	37	1,943	277	248	525
Ponderosa Pine	-	3	3	1,304	614	1,918
Lodgepole Pine	-	3	3	192	195	387
All other softwoods ..	355	2	357	3,426	495	3,921
Total, softwoods ..	151,839	6,430	158,269	25,604	13,482	39,086
Red Alder	155	179	334	-	-	-
Maple	163	107	270	-	-	-
Birch	11	43	54	-	5	5
Cottonwood	154	242	396	4	68	72
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	483	571	1,054	4	73	77
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	152,322	7,001	159,323	25,608	13,555	39,163
Ties						
Douglas Fir	5,110	550	5,660	771	843	1,614
Hemlock	2,473	63	2,536	306	55	361
Balsam Fir	16	-	16	7	14	21
Red Cedar	-	379	379	-	1	1
Spruce	-	65	65	29	60	89
White Pine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	2	11	13
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	-	140	140
All other softwoods ..	15	27	42	849	186	1,035
Total, softwoods ..	7,614	1,084	8,698	1,964	1,310	3,274
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birch	-	-	-	-	10	10
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	10	10
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	7,614	1,084	8,698	1,964	1,320	3,284
Lumber and Ties	159,936	8,085	168,021	27,572	14,875	42,447

Table 3. - Shipments of Sawm Lumber and Ties

February, 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.
<u>COAST MILLS</u>				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	34,168	3,789	832	38,789
Alberta	2,644	xxxxxx		2,644
Saskatchewan	1,785	xxxxxx		1,785
Manitoba	4,100	xxxxxx		4,100
Ontario	11,205	-		11,205
Quebec	4,481	-		4,481
New Brunswick	940	-		940
Nova Scotia	653	-		653
Prince Edward Island	-	-		-
Total for Canada	34,168	29,597	832	64,597
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports	452		2,260	2,712
Atlantic Ports	1,911		9,854	11,765
Other points, by rail	26,384	xxxxxx		26,384
Total for U.S.A.	28,747		12,114	40,861
United Kingdom	x 499		34,934	35,433
Other countries	x 507		15,674	16,181
Destination or carrier not specified				1,261
Total shipments reported	34,168	59,350	63,554	158,333
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				8,025
Total shipments, reported and estimated				166,358
<u>INTERIOR MILLS</u>				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	3,968	3,534	-	7,502
Alberta	43	4,301	xxxxxx	4,344
Saskatchewan	1,633	xxxxxx		1,633
Manitoba	3,133	xxxxxx		3,133
Ontario	6,216	-		6,216
Quebec	693	-		693
New Brunswick	28	-		28
Nova Scotia	-	-		-
Prince Edward Island	-	-		-
Total for Canada	4,011	19,538	-	23,549
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports	340		-	340
Atlantic Ports	109		-	109
Other points, by rail	9,965	xxxxxx		9,965
Total for U.S.A.	10,414		-	10,414
United Kingdom	76		180	256
Other countries	58		28	86
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	4,011	30,086	208	34,305
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				13,520
Total shipments, reported and estimated				47,825

x Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Port.

Table 4. - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills

February, 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	68,225	3,040	71,265	3,073	1,536	4,609
Hemlock	26,699	913	27,612	956	126	1,082
Balsam Fir	271	80	351	-	93	93
Red Cedar	16,084	944	17,028	347	116	463
Spruce	1,453	421	1,874	4,192	2,870	7,062
White Pine	2,394	27	2,421	830	91	921
Ponderosa Pine	-	2	2	251	230	481
Lodgepole Pine	-	2	2	-	123	123
All other softwoods ..	460	21	481	283	250	533
Total, softwoods ...	115,586	5,450	121,036	9,932	5,435	15,367
Red Alder	155	130	285	-	-	-
Maple	122	78	200	-	-	-
Birch	30	31	61	-	6	6
Cottonwood	105	175	280	200	25	225
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	412	414	826	200	31	231
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	115,998	5,864	121,862	10,132	5,466	15,598
UNSOLD						
Douglas Fir	29,651	1,575	31,226	4,968	5,416	10,384
Hemlock	20,010	473	20,483	1,328	443	1,771
Balsam Fir	174	41	215	490	330	820
Red Cedar	6,225	489	6,714	607	410	1,017
Spruce	482	218	700	21,633	10,118	31,751
White Pine	2,573	14	2,587	854	322	1,176
Ponderosa Pine	-	1	1	4,323	811	5,134
Lodgepole Pine	-	1	1	394	433	827
All other softwoods ..	952	11	963	1,120	881	2,001
Total, softwoods ...	60,067	2,823	62,890	35,717	19,164	54,881
Red Alder	-	67	67	-	-	-
Maple	-	40	40	-	-	-
Birch	-	16	16	-	20	20
Cottonwood	15	91	106	5	88	93
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	15	214	229	5	108	113
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	60,082	3,037	63,119	35,722	19,272	54,994
Sold and Unsold	176,080	8,901	184,981	45,854	24,738	70,592

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

	Month ending:-			
	February		January	
	1948	1947	1948	1947
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
<u>ORDERS ON HAND</u>				
For shipment to points in British Columbia				
Local	25,438	34,948	29,172	33,330
Coastwise and interior	9,244	8,525	8,465	9,090
Total	34,682	43,473	37,637	42,420
For shipment by rail to:				
Prairie Provinces	17,476	29,172	19,656	27,023
Eastern Provinces	45,391	26,650	40,287	25,526
United States of America	34,037	23,398	45,949	25,948
Total	96,904	79,220	105,892	78,497
For waterborne shipment to:				
California	3,420	-	300	-
U.S. Atlantic Ports	5,819	-	6,382	-
Eastern Canada	-	2,799	330	3,330
Export Markets	388,324	341,232	382,622	350,809
Total	397,563	344,031	389,634	354,139
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND	529,149	466,724	533,163	475,056
<u>LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER MILLS</u>				
	February	January		
	1948	1947	1948	1947
	4,791	4,968	4,335	6,671

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

	February		January	
	1948	1947	1948	1947
Coast	No. 113	92	111	93
Interior	No. 130	92	120	83
Total, British Columbia	243	184	231	176

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



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