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PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS ON HAND OF SAWMILLS
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
MARCH, 1949

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 233,490 M ft. in March 1949 as compared with 228,256 M ft. in March 1948, an increase of 2.3 p.c. over the previous year and an increase of 24.2 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 76.5 p.c. of the total, showed an increase of 0.9 p.c. over the same month of the previous year, and the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 23.5 p.c. showed an increase of 7.1 p.c. Shipments in March 1949 totalled 236,139 M ft., as compared with 229,727 M ft. the previous year, an increase of 2.8 p.c. with Coast mills registering an increase of 8.2 p.c. and Interior mills a decrease of 15.5 p.c. Total shipments for March increased by 49.6 p.c. over the February figure of 157,798 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of March 1949, amounted to 358,029 M ft., as compared with 276,031 M ft. at the end of March the previous year and 387,040 M ft. at the end of February of this year. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 244,727 M ft., while Interior mills showed 113,302 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 and March, 1948 and 1949. Details by species are given for production and stocks, while shipments are shown by destination. Total production increased from 210,468 M ft. in February 1948 to 228,256 M ft. in March 1948 and from 187,945 M ft. in February to 233,490 M ft. in March 1949. Shipments totalled 157,798 M ft. in February 1949 and 236,139 M ft. in March 1949 as compared with 214,183 M ft. in February and 229,727 M ft. in March of 1948. Stocks on hand at sawmills increased from 255,573 M ft. in February 1948 to 276,031 M ft. in March but decreased from 387,040 M ft. in February 1949 to 358,029 M ft. in March of this year.

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 172,424 M ft. in March, 1949, as compared with 51,285 M ft. reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 6,093 M ft. in March as compared with 3,688 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 76.5 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in March, 1949, as compared with 77.5 p.c. the previous year. The percentages of Coast mills during February, 1949 and 1948, respectively were 78.1 and 79.8 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 re-shipped 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 191,577 M ft. in March of 1949 and 128,372 M ft. in February 1949 as compared with 177,008 M ft. in March 1948 and 166,358 M ft. in the previous month, while the Interior mills shipped 44,562 M ft. and 52,719 M ft. in March 1949 and 1948, and 28,926 M ft. and 47,825 M ft. in February 1949 and 1948. Of all shipments actually reported for March, 45.0 p.c. went to points in Canada, 28.9 p.c. to points in United States, 16.2 p.c. to the United Kingdom and 9.5 p.c. to other countries. Shipments to unspecified destinations accounted for the remainder (0.4 p.c.). Waterborne shipments accounted for 35.6 p.c. of the total, while 39.9 p.c. went by rail, about 24.1 p.c. by truck and 0.4 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 February and March 1949 amounted to 250,936 M ft. and 244,727 M ft. as compared with 184,981 M ft. and 197,671 M ft. in February and March of 1948. Interior mills stocks increased from 70,592 M ft. in February to 78,360 M ft. in March 1948, but decreased from 136,104 M ft. in February to 113,302 M ft. in March 1949. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 32.7 p.c. of the total in March 1949, as compared with 32.9 p.c. in March 1948 for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were, respectively 87.9 and 82.1.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of February and March 1948 and 1949, 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 March 1949, amounted to 357,845 M ft. as compared with 536,190 M ft. in March 1948. Orders on hand at the end of February 1949 and 1948, amounted to 354,845 M ft. and 529,149 M ft., respectively. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 4,573 M ft. in March 1949, 5,417 M ft. in March 1948 as compared with 3,410 M ft. in February 1949 and 4,791 M ft. in February 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 March accounted for 82.8 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1947 compared with 88.2 p.c. for the previous year. The percentages for February 1948 and 1949 were 89.1 and 77.7, 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, March, 1949

	March		February		3 Months	
	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
PRODUCTION						
Douglas Fir	123,386	114,281	99,869	103,980	332,310	323,591
Hemlock	42,559	47,945	38,546	48,151	115,862	145,516
Balsam Fir	1,180	2,203	530	1,288	3,105	4,695
Red Cedar	22,786	19,346	17,777	23,265	53,908	62,745
Spruce	31,795	31,707	22,822	22,356	81,798	77,258
White Pine	3,762	2,636	2,009	2,468	7,637	12,632
Ponderosa Pine	2,345	2,843	1,810	1,934	5,674	6,732
Lodgepole Pine	786	594	854	530	2,364	1,641
All other softwoods	3,821	5,447	2,498	5,355	9,384	16,343
Total softwoods	232,420	227,002	186,715	209,327	612,042	651,153
Red Alder	475	405	527	334	1,521	1,264
Maple	344	210	268	270	922	774
Birch	78	78	82	69	243	223
Cottonwood	151	557	353	468	818	1,507
All other hardwoods	22	4	-	-	22	4
Total hardwoods	1,070	1,254	1,230	1,141	3,526	3,772
Total softwoods & hardwoods ..	233,490	228,256	187,945	210,468	615,568	654,925
SHIPMENTS						
To: Points in Canada	92,981	107,343	54,453	88,146	203,576	273,716
Points in U.S.A.	59,638	52,720	42,280	51,275	153,777	146,465
United Kingdom	33,485	30,589	21,481	35,689	79,497	115,347
Other countries	19,615	14,085	11,213	16,267	58,410	40,929
Destination not specified...	923	1,350	832	1,261	3,112	3,663
Total shipments reported	206,642	206,087	130,259	192,638	498,372	580,120
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills	29,497	23,640	27,539	21,545	82,978	68,251
Total shipments reported and estimated	236,139	229,727	157,798	214,183	581,350	648,371
	March		February			
	1949	1948	1949	1948		
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.		
STOCKS ON HAND						
Douglas Fir	166,713	130,243	185,779		117,484	
Hemlock	66,666	49,699	64,890		50,948	
Balsam Fir	1,972	1,910	1,243		1,479	
Red Cedar	33,072	21,035	31,892		25,222	
Spruce	59,887	49,541	71,204		41,387	
White Pine	8,203	8,229	8,278		7,105	
Ponderosa Pine	9,009	6,983	9,743		5,618	
Lodgepole Pine	1,163	988	4,079		953	
All other softwoods	10,054	6,107	7,953		3,978	
Total softwoods	356,739	274,735	385,061		254,174	
Red Alder	431	282	677		352	
Maple	340	197	441		240	
Birch	119	104	175		103	
Cottonwood	400	711	686		704	
All other hardwoods	-	2	-		-	
Total hardwoods	1,290	1,296	1,979		1,399	
Total softwoods & hardwoods ..	358,029	276,031	387,040		255,573	

Table 2. - Lumber and Ties Sawn
March, 1949

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	95,352	6,179	101,531	7,636	7,702	15,338
Hemlock	38,172	1,632	39,804	123	772	895
Balsam Fir	790	74	864	63	231	294
Red Cedar	20,808	1,379	22,187	49	541	590
Spruce	2,311	593	2,904	15,059	13,530	28,589
White Pine	3,341	67	3,408	24	329	353
Ponderosa Pine	20	-	20	867	1,432	2,299
Lodgepole Pine	-	15	15	219	423	642
All other softwoods ..	673	34	707	407	1,797	2,204
Total, softwoods ...	161,467	9,973	171,440	24,447	26,757	51,204
Red Alder	298	177	475	-	-	-
Maple	188	155	343	-	1	1
Birch	14	42	56	-	22	22
Cottonwood	48	40	88	-	58	58
All other hardwoods ..	22	-	22	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	570	414	984	-	81	81
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	162,037	10,387	172,424	24,447	26,838	51,285
TIES						
Douglas Fir	3,391	616	4,007	935	1,575	2,510
Hemlock	1,752	85	1,837	-	23	23
Balsam Fir	-	4	4	-	18	18
Red Cedar	-	9	9	-	-	-
Spruce	2	36	38	24	240	264
White Pine	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	-	26	26
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	-	129	129
All other softwoods ..	198	-	198	445	267	712
Total, softwoods ...	5,343	750	6,093	1,404	2,279	3,683
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	5	5
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	5	5
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	5,343	750	6,093	1,404	2,284	3,688
LUMBER AND TIES.	167,380	11,137	178,517	25,851	29,122	54,973

Table 3. - Shipments of Sawn Lumber and Ties

March, 1949

	By Truck (Local Sales)	By Rail	Water- borne	Total Shipments
	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.
COAST MILLS				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	41,630	4,020	1,365	47,015
Alberta		3,554	xxxxxx	3,554
Saskatchewan		4,200	xxxxxx	4,200
Manitoba		3,725	xxxxxx	3,725
Ontario		9,805	-	9,805
Quebec		3,499	-	3,499
New Brunswick		644	-	644
Nova Scotia		278	-	278
Prince Edward Island		18	-	18
Total for Canada	41,630	29,743	1,365	72,738
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		324	912	1,236
Atlantic Ports		178	19,476	19,654
Other points, by rail		32,299	xxxxxx	32,299
Total for U.S.A.		32,801	20,388	53,189
United Kingdom	x	751	32,606	33,357
Other countries	x	520	19,059	19,579
Destination or carrier not specified				923
Total shipments reported	41,630	63,815	73,418	179,786
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				11,791
Total shipments, reported and estimated				191,577
INTERIOR MILLS				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	7,871	1,419	-	9,290
Alberta	221	3,418	xxxxxx	3,639
Saskatchewan		884	xxxxxx	884
Manitoba		2,031	xxxxxx	2,031
Ontario		4,064	-	4,064
Quebec		318	-	318
New Brunswick		17	-	17
Nova Scotia		-	-	-
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Total for Canada	8,092	12,151	-	20,243
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		-	-	-
Atlantic Ports		8	-	8
Other points, by rail		6,441	xxxxxx	6,441
Total for U.S.A.		6,449	-	6,449
United Kingdom	x	38	90	128
Other countries	x	25	11	36
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	8,092	18,663	101	26,856
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				17,706
Total shipments, reported and estimated				44,562
x Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Port.				

Table 4. - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills
March, 1949

Species	COAST MILLS			INTERIOR MILLS		
	Reported	Estimated	Total	Reported	Estimated	Total
	Mft.b.m.	Mft.b.m.	Mft.b.m.	Mft.b.m.	Mft.b.m.	Mft.b.m.
SOLD(but not shipped)						
Douglas Fir	85,687	6,267	91,954	2,198	2,307	4,505
Hemlock	42,849	1,583	44,432	234	198	432
Balsam Fir	361	72	433	-	62	62
Red Cedar	17,581	1,280	18,861	356	134	490
Spruce	2,425	580	3,005	1,308	3,425	4,733
White Pine	4,436	61	4,497	595	82	677
Ponderosa Pine	40	-	40	1,358	363	1,721
Lodgepole Pine	-	14	14	-	137	137
All other softwoods ..	630	32	662	294	514	808
Total, softwoods ...	154,009	9,889	163,898	6,343	7,222	13,565
Red Alder	188	163	351	-	-	-
Maple	105	143	248	-	-	-
Birch	11	39	50	-	6	6
Cottonwood	47	37	84	87	16	103
All other hardwoods..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	351	382	733	87	22	109
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	154,360	10,271	164,631	6,430	7,244	13,674
UNSOLD						
Douglas Fir	39,363	3,049	42,412	11,030	16,812	27,842
Hemlock	19,063	770	19,833	527	1,442	1,969
Balsam Fir	850	35	885	139	453	592
Red Cedar	10,740	623	11,363	1,380	978	2,358
Spruce	1,308	282	1,590	25,607	24,952	50,559
White Pine	831	30	861	1,568	600	2,168
Ponderosa Pine	120	-	120	4,486	2,642	7,128
Lodgepole Pine	-	7	7	5	1,000	1,005
All other softwoods ..	2,753	15	2,768	2,075	3,741	5,816
Total, softwoods	75,028	4,811	79,839	46,817	52,620	99,437
Red Alder	-	80	80	-	-	-
Maple	21	69	90	-	2	2
Birch	-	19	19	4	40	44
Cottonwood	50	18	68	29	116	145
All other hardwoods..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	71	186	257	33	158	191
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	75,099	4,997	80,096	46,850	52,778	99,628
SOLD AND UNSOLD	229,459	15,268	244,727	53,280	60,022	113,302

Table 5. - Distribution of Orders on Hand at End of March, 1949 and Lumber Purchased from Other Mills (Coast Mills Only)

	Month ending -			
	March		February	
	1949	1948	1949	1948
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
ORDERS ON HAND				
For shipment to points in British Columbia				
Local	20,993	25,377	21,664	25,438
Coastwise and interior	7,649	6,323	6,995	9,244
Total	28,642	31,700	28,659	34,682
For shipment by rail to:				
Prairie Provinces	20,208	19,238	17,923	17,476
Eastern Provinces	29,466	36,288	27,909	45,391
United States of America	33,448	40,917	42,645	34,037
Total	83,122	96,443	88,477	96,904
For waterborne shipment to:				
California	386	1,093	830	3,420
U.S. Atlantic Ports	22,243	13,098	24,985	5,819
Eastern Canada	1,540	642	597	-
Export Markets	196,802	393,214	214,297	388,324
Total	220,971	408,047	240,709	397,563
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND	332,735	536,190	357,845	529,149
LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER MILLS				
	March	February		
	1949	1948	1949	1948
MILLS	4,573	5,417	3,410	4,791

Table 6. - Number of Active Mills Reporting, March, 1949

		March		February	
		1949	1948	1949	1948
Coast	No.	143	114	120	113
Interior	No.	158	124	110	130
Total, British Columbia	No.	301	238	230	243

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

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