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

OCTOBER, 1950

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 337,828 M ft. in October 1950, as compared with 249,034 M ft. in October 1949, an increase of 35.7 p.c. over the previous year and an increase of 0.3 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 71.3 p.c. of the total, showed an increase of 25.3 p.c. over the same month of the previous year, and the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 28.7 p.c. showed an increase of 70.8 p.c. Shipments in October 1950 totalled 307,271 M ft., as compared with 224,220 M ft. the previous year, an increase of 37.0 p.c. with Coast mills registering an increase of 14.1 p.c. and Interior mills an increase of 78.8 p.c. Total shipments for October decreased by 2.9 p.c. from the September figure of 316,615 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of October 1950 amounted to 358,257 M ft., as compared with 336,681 M ft. at the end of October the previous year and 356,857 M ft. at the end of September of this year. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 243,237 M ft., while Interior mills showed 115,020 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 September and October 1949 and 1950. Details by species are given for production and stocks, while shipments are shown by destination. Total production decreased from 260,272 M ft. in September 1949 to 249,034 M ft. in October 1949 but increased from 336,678 M ft. in September to 337,828 M ft. in October 1950. Shipments totalled 316,615 M ft. in September 1950 and 307,271 M ft. in October 1950 as compared with 241,285 M ft. in September and 244,220 M ft. in October of 1949. Stocks on hand at sawmills decreased from 358,848 M ft. in September 1949 to 336,681 M ft. in October but increased from 356,857 M ft. in September 1950 to 358,257 M ft. in October 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 238,607 M ft. in October 1950 as compared with 94,495 M ft. reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 2,310 M ft. in October as compared with 2,416 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 71.3 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in October 1950 as compared with 77.2 p.c. the previous year. The percentages of Coast mills during September 1950 and 1949 respectively, were 70.5 and 72.9 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 228,149 M ft. in October of 1950 and 226,654 M ft. in September 1950 as compared with 199,971 M ft. in October 1949 and 188,967 M ft. in the previous month, while the Interior mills shipped 79,122 M ft. and 44,249 M ft. in October 1950 and 1949 and 89,961 M ft. and 52,318 M ft. in September 1950 and 1949. Of all shipments actually reported for October, 34.5 p.c. went to points in Canada, 50.3 p.c. to points in United States, 7.7 p.c. to the United Kingdom and 7.5 p.c. to other countries. Waterborne shipments accounted for 43.1 p.c. of the total, while 40.4 p.c. went by rail, and 16.5 p.c. by truck.

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 September and October 1950 amounted to 232,926 M ft. and 243,237 M ft. as compared with 226,256 M ft. and 216,238 M ft. in September and October of 1949. Interior mills stocks decreased from 132,592 M ft. in September to 120,443 M ft. in October 1949, and decreased from 123,931 M ft. in September to 115,020 M ft. in October 1950. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 35.6 p.c. of the total in October 1950, as compared with 39.5 p.c. in October 1949 for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were, respectively, 77.5 and 83.8.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of September and October 1949 and 1950, 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 October 1950, amounted to 657,145 M ft. as compared with 212,316 M ft. in October 1949. Orders on hand at the end of September 1950 and 1949, amounted to 530,261 M ft. and 208,149 M ft., respectively. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 9,264 M ft. in October 1950 and 9,179 M ft. in October 1949 as compared with 9,934 M ft. in September 1950 and 7,400 M ft. in September 1949.

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 October accounted for 81.0 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1948 compared with 80.8 p.c. for the previous year. The percentages for September 1949 and 1950 were 78.5 and 79.1, 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, 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, October, 1950.

	October		September		10 Months	
	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949
PRODUCTION	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
Douglas Fir	170,292	136,399	174,548	140,161	1,429,590	1,264,630
Hemlock	64,706	42,945	59,947	46,304	535,628	420,841
Balsam Fir	2,345	2,617	3,362	1,364	27,463	13,323
Red Cedar	32,429	26,430	27,285	21,988	252,056	222,738
Spruce	49,957	27,767	53,260	35,695	379,043	312,457
White Pine	3,906	4,131	3,491	4,007	36,299	29,706
Ponderosa Pine	4,324	3,475	3,757	4,105	37,164	38,572
Lodgepole Pine	1,512	680	1,650	612	11,449	7,421
All other softwoods	7,444	3,398	8,398	4,947	55,399	44,563
Total softwoods	336,915	247,842	335,698	259,183	2,764,091	2,354,251
Red Alder	437	442	406	449	4,006	5,120
Maple	263	383	305	353	3,106	3,185
Birch	65	78	95	97	806	897
Cottonwood	148	289	174	190	1,877	2,765
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	157	86
Total hardwoods	913	1,192	980	1,089	9,952	12,053
Total softwoods and hardwoods	337,828	249,034	336,678	260,272	2,774,043	2,366,304
SHIPMENTS						
To: Points in Canada	91,615	78,311	91,684	90,247	795,743	880,590
Points in U.S.A.	133,656	90,655	144,046	70,311	1,220,834	536,885
United Kingdom	20,530	15,364	12,612	38,265	133,536	302,550
Other countries	19,689	31,823	20,477	11,021	192,981	215,532
Destination not specified	-	-	-	-	-	8,002
Total shipments reported	265,490	216,153	268,819	209,844	2,343,094	1,943,559
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills	41,781	28,067	47,796	31,441	347,337	332,909
Total shipments reported and estimated.	307,271	244,220	316,615	241,285	2,690,431	2,276,468
	October		September			
	1950	1949	1950	1949		
STOCKS ON HAND						
Douglas Fir	174,611	152,390	169,795	170,876		
Hemlock	60,812	56,072	59,097	54,823		
Balsam Fir	2,404	3,403	2,266	1,993		
Red Cedar	28,937	29,220	25,296	30,946		
Spruce	61,823	63,924	65,407	67,654		
White Pine	8,199	8,057	11,336	8,670		
Ponderosa Pine	9,341	10,364	9,932	10,564		
Lodgepole Pine	1,509	1,503	1,799	1,119		
All other softwoods	9,566	10,328	10,876	10,983		
Total softwoods	357,202	335,261	355,804	357,628		
Red Alder	432	385	414	335		
Maple	389	389	329	384		
Birch	92	129	85	164		
Cottonwood	142	517	223	337		
All other hardwoods	-	-	2	-		
Total hardwoods	1,055	1,420	1,053	1,220		
Total softwoods and hardwoods	358,257	336,681	356,857	358,848		

Table 2. - Lumber and Ties Sawn

October, 1950

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	130,370	8,946	139,316	15,790	11,693	27,483
Hemlock.....	57,854	2,768	60,622	2,773	878	3,651
Balsam Fir.....	1,644	44	1,688	267	358	625
Red Cedar	27,574	2,499	30,073	1,768	574	2,342
Spruce	2,918	990	3,908	23,139	22,677	45,816
White Pine.....	1,843	124	1,967	1,186	747	1,933
Ponderosa Pine....	-	35	35	1,818	2,464	4,282
Lodgepole Pine....	-	2	2	351	1,077	1,428
All other softwoods	153	3	156	1,238	5,624	6,862
Total, softwoods .	222,356	15,411	237,767	48,330	46,092	94,422
Red Alder	240	197	437	-	-	-
Maple	155	108	263	-	-	-
Birch	15	38	53	-	12	12
Cottonwood	62	25	87	5	56	61
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods.	472	368	840	5	68	73
Total, softwoods & hardwoods	222,828	15,779	238,607	48,335	46,160	94,495
TIES						
Douglas Fir	1,376	510	1,886	675	932	1,607
Hemlock	255	141	396	37	-	37
Balsam Fir.....	-	3	3	-	29	29
Red Cedar.....	-	9	9	-	5	5
Spruce	-	14	14	95	124	219
White Pine.....	-	2	2	-	4	4
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	-	7	7
Lodgepole Pine ...	-	-	-	-	82	82
All other softwoods	-	-	-	46	380	426
Total, softwoods .	1,631	679	2,310	853	1,563	2,416
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, softwoods & hardwoods	1,631	679	2,310	853	1,563	2,416
LUMBER AND TIES	224,459	16,458	240,917	49,188	47,723	96,911

Table 3. - Shipments of Sawn Lumber and Ties, October, 1950.

	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.
<u>COAST MILLS</u>				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	32,252	2,793	394	35,439
Yukon and Northwest Territories		28	27	55
Alberta		2,222	xxxxxx	2,222
Saskatchewan		2,843	xxxxxx	2,843
Manitoba		2,165	xxxxxx	2,165
Ontario		9,607	-	9,607
Quebec		2,341	50	2,391
New Brunswick		1,476	1,128	2,604
Nova Scotia		974	-	974
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		-	-	-
Total for Canada	32,252	24,449	1,599	58,300
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		1,324	2,198	3,522
Atlantic Ports		1,176	70,874	72,050
Other points, by rail		43,778	xxxxxx	43,778
Total for U.S.A.		46,278	73,072	119,350
United Kingdom	x	74	20,124	20,198
Other countries	x	89	19,590	19,679
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	32,252	70,890	114,385	217,527
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				10,622
Total shipments, reported and estimated				228,149
<u>INTERIOR MILLS</u>				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	11,341	1,964	-	13,305
Yukon and Northwest Territories	-	99	-	99
Alberta	332	5,279	xxxxxx	5,611
Saskatchewan		3,568	xxxxxx	3,568
Manitoba		3,503	xxxxxx	3,503
Ontario		6,466	-	6,466
Quebec		763	-	763
New Brunswick		-	-	-
Nova Scotia		-	-	-
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		-	-	-
Total for Canada	11,673	21,642	-	33,315
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		429	-	429
Atlantic Ports		391	-	391
Other points, by rail		13,486	xxxxxx	13,486
Total for U.S.A.		14,306	-	14,306
United Kingdom	x	332	-	332
Other countries	x	10	-	10
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	11,673	36,290	-	47,963
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				31,159
Total Shipments, reported and estimated				79,122
x Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Ports.				

Table 4. - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills

October, 1950

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	88,350	6,148	94,498	3,682	3,373	7,055
Hemlock	34,537	1,891	36,428	178	235	413
Balsam Fir	606	30	636	15	103	118
Red Cedar	14,813	1,631	16,444	205	155	360
Spruce	3,784	653	4,437	6,160	6,092	12,252
White Pine	3,334	82	3,416	960	201	1,161
Ponderosa Pine ...	-	23	23	1,832	660	2,492
Lodgepole Pine ...	-	1	1	-	310	310
All other softwoods	53	2	55	110	1,603	1,713
Total, softwoods.	145,477	10,461	155,938	13,142	12,732	25,874
Red Alder	220	128	348	-	-	-
Maple	183	70	253	-	-	-
Birch	21	25	46	-	3	3
Cottonwood	36	16	52	-	15	15
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	460	239	699	-	18	18
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	145,937	10,700	156,637	13,142	12,750	25,892
UNSOLD						
Douglas Fir	45,603	3,399	49,002	12,445	11,611	24,056
Hemlock	20,715	1,046	21,761	1,403	807	2,210
Balsam Fir	1,102	16	1,118	176	356	532
Red Cedar	8,950	902	9,852	1,748	533	2,281
Spruce	2,633	362	2,995	21,169	20,970	42,139
White Pine	553	45	598	2,333	691	3,024
Ponderosa Pine ...	-	12	12	4,542	2,272	6,814
Lodgepole Pine ...	-	1	1	131	1,066	1,197
All other softwoods	1,000	1	1,001	1,275	5,522	6,797
Total, softwoods.	80,556	5,784	86,340	45,222	43,828	89,050
Red Alder	13	71	84	-	-	-
Maple	97	39	136	-	-	-
Birch	18	14	32	-	11	11
Cottonwood	-	8	8	16	51	67
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	128	132	260	16	62	78
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	80,684	5,916	86,600	45,238	43,890	89,128
SOLD AND UNSOLD	226,621	16,616	243,237	58,380	56,640	115,020

Table 5. - Distribution of Orders on Hand at End of October, 1950 and
Lumber Purchased from Other Mills (Coast mills Only)

	Month ending -			
	October		September	
	1950	1949	1950	1949
<u>ORDERS ON HAND</u>				
<u>For shipment to points in British Columbia</u>				
Local	13,416	12,909	13,971	14,542
Coastwise and interior	2,740	2,518	3,523	2,291
Total	16,156	15,427	17,494	16,833
<u>For shipment by rail to:</u>				
Prairie Provinces	10,228	9,105	10,977	8,304
Eastern Provinces	28,799	15,582	22,239	15,609
United States of America	40,628	34,323	48,446	34,090
Total	79,655	59,010	81,662	58,003
<u>For waterborne shipment to:</u>				
California	650	1,508	691	264
U.S. Atlantic Ports	65,583	79,935	130,605	57,928
Eastern Canada	210	-	250	-
Export Markets	494,891	56,436	299,559	75,121
Total	561,334	137,879	431,105	133,313
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND	657,145	212,316	530,261	208,149
<u>LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER</u>				
MILLS	9,264	9,179	9,934	7,400

Table 6. - Number of Active Mills Reporting, October, 1950.

		October		September	
		1950	1949	1950	1949
Coast	No.	125	122	128	122
Interior	No.	141	95	146	111
Total, British Columbia	No.	266	217	274	233

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

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