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

MAY, 1953

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 305,621 M ft. in May, 1953 as compared with 349,542 M ft. in May, 1952 a decrease of 12.6 p.c. from the previous year but an increase of 7.1 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 70.0 p.c. of the total, showed a decrease of 12.5 p.c. from the same month of the previous year, and the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 30.0 p.c. showed a decrease of 12.7 p.c. Shipments in May, 1953 totalled 318,802 M ft., as compared with 327,787 M ft. the previous year, a decrease of 2.7 p.c. with Coast mills registering a decrease of 6.0 p.c. but Interior mills an increase of 6.9 p.c. Total shipments for May increased by 5.3 p.c. over the April figure of 302,738 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of May, 1953 amounted to 416,302 M ft., as compared with 385,779 M ft. at the end of May the previous year and 424,926 M ft. at the end of April of this year. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 238,298 M ft., while Interior mills showed 178,004 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 April and May, 1952 and 1953. Details by species are given for production and stocks while shipments are shown by destination. Total production increased from 289,228 M ft. in April, 1952 to 349,542 M ft. in May, 1952 and from 285,296 M ft. in April to 305,621 M ft. in May, 1953. Shipments totalled 302,738 M ft. in April, 1953 and 318,802 M ft. in May, 1953 as compared with 296,037 M ft. in April and 327,787 M ft. in May of 1952. Stocks on hand at sawmills decreased from 400,712 M ft. in April, 1952 to 385,779 M ft. in May and decreased from 424,926 M ft. in April, 1953 to 416,302 M ft. in May 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 210,040 M ft. in May, 1953 as compared with 89,508 M ft. reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 3,781 M ft. in May as compared with 2,292 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 70.0 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in May, 1953 as compared with 69.9 p.c. the previous year. The percentages of Coast mills during April, 1953 and 1952 respectively, were 74.5 and 76.6 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 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 230,076 M ft. in May of 1953 and 224,882 M ft. in April, 1953 as compared with 244,764 M ft. in May, 1952 and 228,064 M ft. in the previous month, while the Interior mills shipped 88,726 M ft. and 83,023 M ft. in May, 1953 and 1952 and 77,856 M ft. and 67,973 M ft. in April, 1953 and 1952. Of all shipments actually reported for May, 35.9 p.c. went to points in Canada, 40.7 p.c. to points in United States, 12.6 p.c. to the United Kingdom and 10.8 p.c. to other countries. Waterborne shipments accounted for 43.9 p.c. of the total, while 38.8 p.c. went by rail, and 17.3 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 April and May, 1953 amounted to 260,427 M ft. and 238,298 M ft. as compared with 247,620 M ft. and 238,725 M ft. in April and May of 1952. Interior mills stocks decreased from 153,092 M ft. in April to 147,054 M ft. in May, 1952 but increased from 164,499 M ft. in April to 178,004 M ft. in May 1953. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 28.5 p.c. of the total in May, 1953 as compared with 36.6 p.c. in May, 1952 for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were, respectively, 82.8 and 77.6.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of April and May, 1952 and 1953 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 May, 1953 amounted to 269,054 M ft. as compared with 317,476 M ft. in May, 1952. Orders on hand at the end of April, 1953 and 1952 amounted to 320,506 M ft. and 397,887 M ft., respectively. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 5,408 M ft. in May, 1953 and 7,920 M ft. in May, 1952 as compared with 5,596 M ft. in April, 1953 and 4,939 M ft. in April, 1952.

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 May accounted for 84.6 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1951 compared with 78.3 p.c. for the previous year. The percentages for April, 1952 and 1953 were 79.8 and 88.2 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 Lumberman'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, May, 1953.

	May		April		5 Months	
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
PRODUCTION						
Douglas Fir	154,482	170,531	141,933	142,648	749,641	710,592
Hemlock	59,428	77,934	56,691	65,746	318,102	326,412
Balsam Fir	1,106	862	571	734	5,395	4,081
Red Cedar	35,105	32,981	36,023	32,747	177,341	154,411
Spruce	37,349	44,269	32,679	30,313	255,482	220,676
White Pine	4,104	8,177	6,291	6,273	24,575	32,446
Ponderosa Pine	4,768	5,390	3,251	3,168	15,991	16,019
Lodgepole Pine	1,794	2,122	1,516	1,176	14,989	11,166
All other softwoods ..	7,148	6,351	5,958	5,420	34,671	29,801
Total softwoods	305,284	348,617	284,913	288,225	1,596,187	1,505,604
Red Alder	143	365	159	343	1,376	1,759
Maple	124	326	148	342	1,069	1,541
Birch	33	80	29	108	185	467
Cottonwood	37	154	47	210	277	903
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total hardwoods ..	337	925	383	1,003	2,907	4,670
Total Production ..	305,621	349,542	285,296	289,228	1,599,094	1,510,274
SHIPMENTS						
To: Points in Canada	101,902	95,248	90,169	73,902	469,302	398,408
Points in U.S.A.	115,301	88,327	114,205	92,457	539,725	397,255
United Kingdom	35,760	102,010	42,093	88,686	207,137	402,424
Other countries	30,602	6,434	27,665	11,016	116,103	56,949
Shipments reported	283,565	292,019	274,132	266,061	1,332,267	1,255,036
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills	35,237	35,768	28,606	29,976	170,677	158,203
Total shipments	318,802	327,787	302,738	296,037	1,502,944	1,413,239
STOCKS ON HAND						
	May		April			
	1953	1952	1953	1952		
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.		
Douglas Fir	181,553	163,834	192,799	170,458		
Hemlock	67,339	72,928	69,999	69,851		
Balsam Fir	2,075	1,050	1,232	1,434		
Red Cedar	44,509	40,739	46,297	43,434		
Spruce	82,855	66,764	79,101	72,599		
White Pine	10,824	17,206	10,061	18,178		
Ponderosa Pine	11,091	10,613	10,002	8,956		
Lodgepole Pine	3,460	2,792	3,285	2,505		
All other softwoods ..	11,652	8,754	11,445	11,792		
Total softwoods	415,358	384,680	424,221	399,207		
Red Alder	301	392	281	417		
Maple	403	333	230	543		
Birch	154	133	101	265		
Cottonwood	86	241	93	280		
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-		
Total hardwoods ..	944	1,099	705	1,505		
Total Stocks	416,302	385,779	424,926	400,712		

Table 2 - Lumber and Ties Sawn, May, 1953.

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	110,399	5,101	115,500	20,733	13,130	33,863
Hemlock	54,617	1,203	55,820	2,404	942	3,346
Balsam Fir	246	82	328	330	448	778
Red Cedar	32,184	1,272	33,456	1,314	331	1,645
Spruce	2,997	289	3,286	18,555	15,437	33,992
White Pine	732	58	790	2,084	1,214	3,298
Ponderosa Pine	11	32	43	3,578	1,124	4,702
Lodgepole Pine	-	1	1	369	1,257	1,626
All other softwoods	475	29	504	2,764	3,469	6,233
Total, softwoods	201,661	8,067	209,728	52,131	37,352	89,483
Red Alder	59	83	142	-	1	1
Maple	48	75	123	-	1	1
Birch	7	16	23	3	7	10
Cottonwood	-	24	24	4	9	13
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods.	114	198	312	7	18	25
Total, softwoods and hardwoods.	201,775	8,265	210,040	52,138	37,370	89,508
<u>Ties</u>						
Douglas Fir	3,344	173	3,517	757	845	1,602
Hemlock	227	33	260	-	2	2
Balsam Fir	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Cedar	4	-	4	-	-	-
Spruce	-	-	-	65	6	71
White Pine	-	-	-	-	16	16
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	19	4	23
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	-	167	167
All other softwoods	-	-	-	228	183	411
Total, softwoods .	3,575	206	3,781	1,069	1,223	2,292
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, softwoods and hardwoods .	3,575	206	3,781	1,069	1,223	2,292
Lumber and Ties	205,350	8,471	213,821	53,207	38,593	91,800

Table 3 - Shipments of Sawn Lumber and Ties, May, 1953.

	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	35,675	2,628	1,163	39,466
Yukon and Northwest Territories		-	-	-
Alberta		2,537	xxxxxx	2,537
Saskatchewan		2,568	xxxxxx	2,568
Manitoba		2,391	xxxxxx	2,391
Ontario		12,361	-	12,361
Quebec		2,686	586	3,272
New Brunswick		230	-	230
Nova Scotia		320	-	320
Prince Edward Island		57	-	57
Newfoundland		64	-	64
Total for Canada	35,675	25,842	1,749	63,266
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		418	2,368	2,786
Atlantic Ports		583	54,037	54,620
Other points, by rail		36,906	xxxxxx	36,906
Total for U.S.A.		37,907	56,405	94,312
United Kingdom	x	102	35,322	35,424
Other countries	x	15	30,587	30,602
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	35,675	63,866	124,063	223,604
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				6,472
Total shipments, reported and estimated				230,076
<u>INTERIOR MILLS</u>				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	12,981	1,165	-	14,146
Yukon and Northwest Territories		-	-	-
Alberta	599	5,502	xxxxxx	6,101
Saskatchewan		4,900	xxxxxx	4,900
Manitoba		4,812	xxxxxx	4,812
Ontario		7,716	-	7,716
Quebec		919	-	919
New Brunswick		-	-	-
Nova Scotia		17	-	17
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		25	-	25
Total for Canada	13,580	25,056	-	38,636
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		358	-	358
Atlantic Ports		-	-	-
Other points, by rail		20,631	xxxxxx	20,631
Total for U.S.A.		20,989	-	20,989
United Kingdom	x	31	305	336
Other countries	x	-	-	-
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	13,580	46,076	305	59,961
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				28,765
Total shipments, reported and estimated				88,726
x Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Port.				

Table 4 - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills, May, 1953.

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>Sold but not shipped</u>						
Douglas Fir	90,489	4,194	94,683	5,193	4,659	9,852
Hemlock	45,243	983	46,226	500	315	815
Balsam Fir	2	65	67	24	149	173
Red Cedar	21,649	1,012	22,661	60	110	170
Spruce	2,698	230	2,928	7,753	5,148	12,901
White Pine	2,447	46	2,493	1,713	410	2,123
Ponderosa Pine	-	25	25	2,130	376	2,506
Lodgepole Pine	-	1	1	45	475	520
All other softwoods ..	763	23	786	320	1,218	1,538
Total, softwoods ..	163,291	6,579	169,870	17,738	12,860	30,598
Red Alder	-	66	66	-	1	1
Maple	-	59	59	-	-	-
Birch	-	13	13	-	2	2
Cottonwood	-	19	19	-	3	3
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	-	157	157	-	6	6
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	163,291	6,736	170,027	17,738	12,866	30,604
<u>Unsold</u>						
Douglas Fir	29,270	1,413	30,683	23,896	22,439	46,335
Hemlock	15,048	331	15,379	3,403	1,516	4,919
Balsam Fir	198	22	220	896	719	1,615
Red Cedar	18,417	341	18,758	2,389	531	2,920
Spruce	1,056	77	1,133	41,097	24,796	65,893
White Pine	1,269	16	1,285	2,948	1,975	4,923
Ponderosa Pine	43	9	52	6,697	1,811	8,508
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	652	2,287	2,939
All other softwoods ..	28	8	36	3,428	5,864	9,292
Total, softwoods ..	65,329	2,217	67,546	85,406	61,938	147,344
Red Alder	210	22	232	-	2	2
Maple	322	20	342	-	2	2
Birch	117	4	121	7	11	18
Cottonwood	23	7	30	20	14	34
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	672	53	725	27	29	56
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	66,001	2,270	68,271	85,433	61,967	147,400
<u>Sold and Unsold</u>	229,292	9,006	238,298	103,171	74,833	178,004

Table 5 - Distribution of Orders on Hand at End of May, 1953 and
Lumber Purchased from Other Mills (Coast Mills Only)

	May		April	
	1953	1952	1953	1952
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
<u>ORDERS ON HAND</u>				
For shipment to points in British Columbia				
Local	11,343	14,370	10,085	13,629
Coastwise and interior	5,500	3,074	6,047	5,286
Total	16,843	17,444	16,132	18,915
For shipment by rail to:				
Prairie Provinces	12,003	8,411	14,556	10,592
Eastern Provinces	18,070	20,295	21,751	25,486
United States of America	28,842	38,674	39,590	45,079
Total	58,915	67,380	75,897	81,157
For waterborne shipment to:				
California	1,047	2,330	1,712	1,797
U.S. Atlantic Ports	44,514	23,511	61,147	9,921
Eastern Canada	4,783	85	4,870	-
Exports Markets	142,952	206,726	160,748	286,097
Total	193,296	232,652	228,477	297,815
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND	269,054	317,476	320,506	397,887
LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER MILLS	5,408	7,920	5,596	4,939

Table 6 - Number of Active Mills Reporting
May, 1953.

	May		April	
	1953	1952	1953	1952
Coast No.	105	103	101	97
Interior No.	198	182	181	129
Total, British Columbia No.	303	285	282	226

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

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