Ocean Shipping and Exports

By J. G. LLAMAS Acting Assistant-Secretary Associated Steamship Lines

TOTAL exports for the month of March of this year, showed a small increase over exports during March of last year.

95 vessels lifted 262,778 tons of exports during the month, as compared to 252,350 tons lifted by 106 vessels during the same month last year.

Commodities which have registered a sharp increase over last year's figures for the same month, are: hemp from 66,616 to 106,277 bales; logs from 3,760,757 to 12,102,779 bft, molasses from 2,832 to 9,370 tons; and rattan, palasan, from 115 to 437 tons.

• Exports for March, 1951, as compared with exports for March, 1950, were as follows:

	March			
	15	951	\$ 1950	
Alcohol	215	tons	57 tons	
Beer	75		_ "	
Cigar and cigarettes	16	"	11 "	
Coconut, desiccated	5.894	••	10.992 "	
Coconut oil	5.243	••	3.789 "	
Concentrates, gold	118		546 "	
Сорга	42,104	••	43,185 "	
Copra cake meal	5,425		6,258	
Embroideries	190		163 "	
Empty cylinders	552		400 "	
Fruits, fresh	354	**	119 "	
Furniture, rattan	826	**	625 "	
Glycerine	168		176 "	
Gums, copal	109	.,	62 "	
Gums, elemi	30	**	<u> </u>	
Hemp	106,277	bales	66,616 bales	

Household goods	266	tons	293 tons
		tons	
Junk, metal	9,902		2,039
Logs	12,102,779	bit.	3,760,757 bft.
Lumber, sawn	3,986,920	"	3,476,149 "
Molasses	9.370	tons	2.832 tons
Plywood and plywood			
products	35		14 "
Ores, chrome	21,503		24,808 "
Ores, iron	61.427	"	58,657 "
Pineapples, canned	5,676	"	4.737 "
Rattan, palasan.	437	,,	115 "
Rope	698		213 "
Rubber	63	**	83 "
Shell, shells waste	60	"	26 "
Skins, hides	170	**	114
Soap	28	"	_
Sugar cent./raw	47,622		57,517 "
Tobacco	539	**	696 ''
Vegetable oil	34	••	42 "
Transit cargo	472	**	823 "
Merchandise, general	2,710		2,413 "

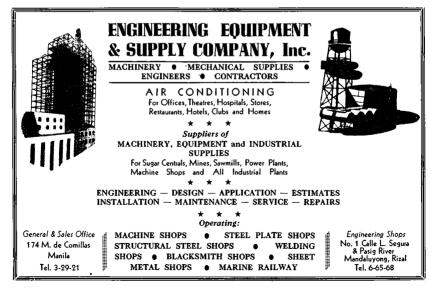
Lumber

BY LUIS J. REYES

Philippine Representative, Penrod, Jurden & Clark Company

THE shipping situation remains critical and many logs and much sawn lumber cannot be shipped because of the shortage of bottoms.

During the month of March a total of 24,642,178 bd. ft. was inspected for export mostly to Japan and the United States. Reports from Japan state that the supply of lauan logs from the Philippines has reached saturation to the point that the tendency of the market is to demand a higher grade of logs. Certain sections of this country have shipped mostly saw-logs to Japan. Future shipments, it



seems, will be of higher quality, similar to those sent to the United States. Distributors in the United States are clamoring for more lumber and logs and local producers are unable to supply the big demand of the American market.

The Bureau of Forestry released the following table showing the logs and lumber inspected for export during the month of March, 1951:

Destination	Lumber (Bd.Ft.)	Logs (Bd.Ft.)	Total (Bd.Ft.)
Japan	_	12.887.266	12.887.266
United States	3.653.824	4.004.949	7,658,773
South Africa	324,447	_	324,447
Formosa.	_	1.505.713	1.505.713
Canada	191.435	109.942	301.377
Okinawa.	1.224.124	-	1.224.124
Hewaii.	442,228	_	442.228
Guam	298,250	_	298,250
	6.134.308	18.507.870	24.642.178

In the local market, prices have gone higher, with sales made at P190 to P195 per 1000 bd.ft. for tangile, P180 for apitong, and P165 to P170 for white lauan. Prices are going up and by April and May may reach P200 or more for tangile with corresponding rises in the prices of other woods. Prices may remain high during the dry months of May and June. Prices during the earlier part of this year were so discouraging to millers that many mills closed down and sent their logs to Japan instead of sawing them.

The Philippine Lumber Producers Association held its annual meeting on April 13 and unanimously re-elected Antonio de las Alas as President and also the entire Board of Directors. Many activities are being planned for the coming year, among them the expansion of the office of the Secretary for wider service to all the members of the Association.

Shipment of sawn lumber to the United States Army in Japan is encountering difficulties mainly due to the interpretation of the grading rules governing the "merchantable" grade. It will be remembered that the original conditions of purchase were that the grade of "merchantable," as described in the grading rules of the Philippine Government, would be followed and that the certificate of inspection issued by qualified inspectors of the Bureau of Forestry would be accepted as final. But the first shipment of lumber to Japan was not satisfactory to the Army which for this reason sent officials to the Philippines to supervise the inspection and to show Philippine government inspectors its interpretation of the Philippine Government rules defining the "merchantable" grade. We had opportunity to go over the United States Army interpretation of the rules and I can state definitely that it is entirely different from that held here.

Mining

By NESTORIO N. LIM Secretary, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines

THREE new laws which recently went into force will adversely affect the mining industry—the 17% tax on foreign exchange, which will increase the procurement cost, among other things, of mining machinery and spare parts, supplies, chemicals, etc.; the sharp increase in the corporate income tax rates; and the minimum wage law.

Mining companies will have to pay their workers a minimum wage of $\mathbb{P}3$ a day beginning August 13 of this year, and $\mathbb{P}4$ a day after August 12 of next year; deductible are the cost of meals, not exceeding 40g' a meal, and the cost of housing, not to exceed 40g' a day.

