LUMBER REVIEW

By Arthur F. Fischer
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The favorable market condition noted in the last review still holds true and we have reasons to believe that a heavy export of lumber will take place during the last month of the year, or early in 1926. Heavy buying continues and although the amount of lumber shipped in November was less than that of the corresponding month in 1924, the total value in money was higher.

The export for November amounted to 5,371,242 board feet valued at ₱356,900 as compared with 7,219,448 board feet valued at ₱335,139 for the same month in 1924. The month of November registered an increase in export of about a million feet over that of October. In round figures the United States imported 2.747 M Bd. Ft.; Australia, 782 M. Bd. Ft.; China, 502 M. Bd. Ft.; and Japan, 940 M. Bd. Ft. as compared with 1.903 M. Bd. Ft.; 118 M Bd. Ft.; 309 M. Bd. Ft.; and 4.571 M. Bd. Ft., respectively, in 1924. With the exception of Japan, therefore, all the countries named showed a heavier import this year as compared with the corresponding month last year

The lumber shipment for November amounted to 15.142 million board feet as compared with 12.529 million board feet in 1924. The production of 30 mills amounted to 14.180 million board feet as compared with 12.866 million board feet in 1924, and the lumber in stock amounts to 33.511 million board feet as compared with 26.403 million board feet in 1924.

Advices from the United States as well as the interest shown by entities there in Central and South American timber resources, give credence to the fact that the United States is waking up to the gradual diminishing of the hardwood supply at home and are beginning to look for sources of supply abroad. The various articles appearing in trade journals from the United States show that the Philippines is very prominently considered as a possible source of supply. This is an indication that the demand for Philippine lumber to the United States will increase. Philippine lumbermen, however, must put themselves in a position to compete in price as well as in quality and quantity with producers of hardwood elsewhere. More rigid inspection of export shipments and a recognition of the necessity for the installation of dry kilns on the part of local producers must be taken. If this is done, there is no question but that the lumber industry will develop a steady and healthy growth and become permanently established.

The local carriers situation is a handicap which could be worked out by cooperative efforts on their part in the purchase of lumber schooners carrying approximately one-half million feet or more and drafts shallow enough to enter any lumber harbor in the Philippines.

DECEMBER SUGAR REVIEW

By Welch-Fairchild, Ltd.

NEW YORK MARKET: During the month the market was steady. Prices remained low, but there was no disposition on the part of holders to press sales. The market opened with sales of Cubas for prompt shipment at 2-1/2¢, c. & f., declined to 2-1/4¢, and thereafter recovered, closing firm with sales at 2-7/16¢, c. & f.

There were sales of old crop Philippine Centrifugals on route at 3.96¢ and 4.14¢, and of new crop for December/January/February shipment at prices ranging from 4-1/8¢ to 4-1/4¢, all landed terms.

Futures on the exchange ruled steady, with a tendency to decline during the greater part of the month, but recovering at the close. We give quotations as follows:

	High	*Low*	*Latest*
March	2.51¢	2.32¢	2.45¢
May	2.65	2.43	2.58
September	2.83	2.61	2.78

The milling season in Cuba made a good start, more centrals starting up than was expected. This tended to affect adversely prices for spot sugars and also for near-by positions. Explaining the reason for the earlier commencement of milling on a general scale than was anticipated, one authority writes:

"This year, however, the drought would ripen the cane, and the yields in December, instead of being 8%, as they were at this time last year, might be much nearer 10%. Furthermore, there is always that dread of fire when the cane is dry, which makes managers very anxious to get started, and be in a position to grind cane in case a misfortune of this sort should occur."

If drought in Cuba has adversly affected cane production, the effects would naturally be reflected later in the season. The yearly commencement of milling therefore should not seriously disturb the market.

LOCAL MARKET: The local market for centrifugal was steady with fairly large transactions at prices ranging from ₱9.50 to ₱10.00 per picul, ex godown, basis 96°.

Good progress continues to be made in harvesting and grinding. Purities are improving as the season advances, and the indications are that the yields of sugar per ton of cane will be better than last year, though, unfortunately, the yields of cane per hectare will be considerably less. Some of the centrals have reduced their estimates. One authority estimates the total Philippine centrifugal crop as follows:

	metric tons
Negros	292,000
Luzon	110,893
Panay	9,214
Mindoro	4,500
	416,607

This estimate shows a reduction of approximately 25,000 tons on the estimate already published, particulars of which will be found in our November review.

The weather is reported as on the whole favorable for planting the new crop. Some districts report planting well advanced, though it is stated that in other districts it is behind owing to financial difficulties.

Large shipments of new crop centrifugals have already been made to the U. S. market. Shipments to all countries from January 1 to December 23 as follows:

Kinds of sugar	*Metric tons*	*Destination*
Centrifugal	439,592	U. S.
Muscovados	72,547	China & Japan
Refined	4,257	U. S. & Japan
	516,396	

The freight rate on sugars from the Philippines to Atlantic Coast was reduced to $7.00 per ton of 2210 lbs., at which rate shippers have contracted for the greater part of their requirements for the season.

MISCELLANEOUS: The stocks in U. S., Cuba, U. K., and the five principal countries in Europe at the end of the year were placed at 3,120,000 tons as against 2,440,000 tons and 2,000,000 tons at the end of 1924 and 1923, respectively.

Estimates of the present Cuban crop compiled by various authorities will be of interest, and follow:

	Tons
Guma Mejer	5,374,000
Himely	5,293,000
Lamborn	5,200,000
Havana Sugar Clubs	5,089,000

Other crop estimates are:

Porto Rico	550,000
British India	2,502,000

The latest estimate of the European beet crop is 7,457,500 tons.