

• LUMBER REVIEW •

By Forester GREGORIO POBLACION

Following the general trend of the export trade, lumber and timber exports during the period from December, 1951 to February, 1952, declined considerably. During the period under review there were exported 12,053,589 board feet of sawn lumber and 35,241,081 board feet of logs, or a total of 47,294,670 board feet, as compared to 53,247,172 board feet exported during the same period in the previous year, or a drop of 5,952,502 board feet or 11 per cent.

It is again evident, as it was before the war, that Japan is only interested in the importation of Philippine logs as shown by the fact that during the period under review that market imported from the Philippines 26,914,738 board feet of logs and 450 board feet only of sawn lumber for sample purposes. In fact, with the exception of lumber purchased by the United States Army for its own needs, there has been no shipment of Philippine lumber to Japan since May, 1951.

Demand in Hongkong for Philippine lumber was strong but, on account of government restrictions on the exportation of lumber to that market for reasons of national security, only 1,760,949 board feet composed of narrows, shorts and one-inch lumber of Merchantable grade were shipped to that market during the period under review.

While new openings for export logs and lumber were apparently developing, especially in some countries in Europe, decreased exports to the United States and Japan outweighed the gain from new markets. American and Japanese dealers had shown great concern over the irregular prices being quoted by local producers. This is a factor that undoubtedly contributed in no small measure to the reduced activities of American and Japanese buyers. It can only be solved by the producers themselves.

In addition to the above problem that

faced the export business, the Associated Steamship Lines increased its freight rates by \$2.00 on every one thousand board feet of logs or lumber shipped to the United States effective February 2, 1952. Then adding insult to injury, the shipping company started charging on the same date, \$5.00 more on every one thousand board feet of logs or lumber shipped to the United States from out-of-the-way ports in the Philippines not classified as Class A ports. Considering the fact that the places of operation of the small producers are generally located away from ports classified as Class A ports, it is evident that these increases in freight rates weigh more heavily against the small producers catering to export trade than against the big producers whose places of operation are in most cases coincidentally located at Class A ports.

Increased cost of production brought about by increased labor wages and high cost of equipment and supplies have made it impossible for some local producers now to bring their lumber to Manila where the wholesale price is lower than the combined cost of product, freight to Manila and stevedoring charges. Placed under this situation, these local producers have no other alternative than to dispose of their lumber in the provinces where they are operating. Eventually, this group of lumber producers may increase in number unless they could find ways and means of reducing their cost of production or unless the high cost of equipment and supplies will decline.

Due to decreased demand for Philippine logs in the principal foreign markets, log prices moved down to a lower level during the period following the law of supply and demand. Veneer or Peeler Log Nos. 1 and 2, fifty per cent red and fifty per cent white were quoted at \$50-\$55 per thousand board feet, Brereton scale, F.O.B. Philippine ports.

Merchantable logs having the same proportion of red and white were quoted at \$40-\$45 per thousand board feet.

While the present situation of the lumber industry is not encouraging, the producers are looking forward to the day when our international economic relations with other countries will be favorable to the expansion of our lumber and timber exports. Many countries of the world need Philippine Mahogany for purposes to which it is specially suited. The availability of Philippine Mahogany lumber and timber in great quantities at comparatively lower cost than other woods having similar properties is a strong guaranty for a continued demand for it in foreign markets. In the meantime, the government plan to enter into barter trade agreement with other countries should be

accelerated to boost our lumber and timber export trade.

Local market for lumber and timber has a bright prospect in view of the industrialization program of the government which is now actually taking shape. The unprecedented steps taken by the government to improve agriculture, the rehabilitation of the mining industry and others will redound to our national prosperity and will increase our lumber and timber requirements annually.

The table below shows the quantities of lumber and timber exported from the Philippines and their corresponding values, excluding the quantities purchased and inspected by the U.S. Army during the months of December, 1951, and January and February, 1952:

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Lumber</i>		<i>Logs</i>	
	<i>Volume (Bd. Ft.)</i>	<i>Value Pesos</i>	<i>Volume (Bd. Ft.)</i>	<i>Value Pesos</i>
Belgium	99,397	32,832.03	————	————
Canada	22,888	5,839.75	————	————
England	35,539	27,538.36	599,900	65,291.36
Erie	72,104	12,832.55	————	————
Formosa	————	————	1,279,570	101,197.74
Germany	————	————	29,991	sample
Guam	47,003	11,000.00	7,009	3,150.00
Hawaii	783,066	197,487.58	————	————
Hongkong	1,760,949	254,835.76	————	————
Japan	450	sample	26,914,738	2,746,562.54
Singapore	————	————	131,069	15,728.28
South Africa	1,698,869	422,010.81	198,296	21,415.96
Spain	433	229.49	————	————
United States	7,532,891	1,894,259.88	6,080,508	1,082,500.77
Total	12,053,589	2,858,866.21	35,241,081	4,035,846.65



FOREST—AN IMPORTANT . . .

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ings is expected to get under way in the near future.

It is realized that the full effectiveness of the work of the Bur. of Forestry is in many ways handicapped through lack of sufficient appropriations. Travel allowances of field personnel are inadequate to safeguard properly the forests from illegal exploitation. Much timber is destroyed without financial benefit to the Government because of itinerant squatters on public forest lands. We in the MSA are cognizant of these conditions and wish to offer every assistance to the Bureau of Forestry in furthering their correction. The Bureau of Forestry has a large responsibility in serving as the official custodian for the protection and wise use and management of the forest wealth of this country. The effectiveness of that 'stewardship' has a most definite bearing on the Philippine economy both today and on down the years. This responsibility, it is believed, could very well be shared in greater degree with the public through special organized channels for dispensing information. The Bureau of Forestry has a "real story to tell" and one that with the help of a better informed public can go far toward alleviating financial anxieties concerned with the bureau's administration activities.

The secret of life is not to do what you like, but to like what you do.

—World Treasury of Proverbs

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If someone betrays you once, it's his fault. If he betrays you twice, it's your fault.

—Rumanian Proverb

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He who marries might be sorry. He who does not will be sorry.

—Czechoslovakian Proverb

HOW TO PREPARE . . .

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material for compost. This has the advantage of the pile not to erode at the sides and scatter but the big drawback is the inconvenience of spading to blend the material and removing the humus once ready for use.

The temperature in the Philippines is fairly high throughout the years to favor the development within the pile of the organisms which are essential in good humus formation. The most important factor to control is moisture within the pile. The pile should be kept moist at all times, a condition which will not only favor the development of bacteria and other organisms but also encourage decomposition. During the rainy season, there is not much need of spraying except of course during the spell of prolonged dry weather. During the dry season, occasional spraying is necessary in order to keep the pile moist.

Sta. Clara Lumber Co. Inc.

Exporters of Philippine

Mahogany and

Dealers in Lumber and

Kiln Dried Lumber

Mill and Forest:

Gingog, Misamis Oriental