

The principal items which registered decreased carloadings were: centrifugal sugar, due to competition of highway carriers; logs and lumber, due to decreased exportation to the United States and practically total stoppage of shipments to Japan; wood fuel, due to higher rates and lack of cars which were assigned to the sugar cane traffic, etc.

The carloadings are not to be taken as indicative of business trends because of the movements of items which have been diverted to highway carriers, specially to points north of Manila. The coming months may not show improvement as far as the railroad business is concerned, though exports may continue to increase. The same may be said of the import items. Until the Railroad can increase its facilities, very little improvement can be expected in the way of carloadings.

Lumber

BY PACIFICO DE OCAÑO
Secretary-Treasurer

Philippine Lumber Producers' Association, Inc.

DURING the month under review, December, 1953, the Philippines exported 49,976,577 bd. ft. of logs and lumber, 4,005,416 bd. ft. less than during the preceding month. This big decrease was mainly due to the fall in the shipment of logs to Japan, from 44,953,045 bd. ft. in November, to 41,834,287 bd. ft. in December, or a decrease of 3,118,758 bd. ft. The exports to the United States decreased by only 57,811 bd. ft., from 5,633,156 bd. ft. in November to 5,575,345 bd. ft. in December. Exports to all other countries decreased by 861,938 bd. ft., from 3,395,792 bd. ft. in November to 2,533,854 bd. ft. in December, 1953.

The following are the quantities of logs and lumber in

bd. ft. inspected for export during December, 1953, as released by the Bureau of Forestry.

Shipper	Destination	Volume in Board Feet	
		Lumber	Logs
Aguinaldo Development Corp.	U.S.A.	52,082	199,988
Agusan Timber Corp.	Japan		2,550,000
Alberto S. Lorente	Japan		455,008
American Rubber Co.	Japan		430,010
Anakan Lumber Company	U.S.A.	135,322	670,000
A. Soriano y Cia.	Japan		3,000,000
Atkins Kroll & Co., Inc.	Japan		250,000
Besilan Lumber Company	U.S.A.	870,151	153,850
Bislig Bay Lumber Co., Inc.	Hawaii	49,032	
	Japan		1,699,967
	U.S.A.	268,342	
	Hongkong	205,501	
	Spain	427	
	Japan		4,795,487
	Japan		640,368
Cantilan Lumber Co.	Japan		
Cipriano Luna Lumber Enterprises	Japan		648,548
Dahican Lumber Co.	Formosa		120,000
Davao Stevedores Terminal Co. Inc.	Japan		1,178,821
Dee Cho Lumber Co., Inc.	U.S.A.	48,010	
Dy Pac & Co., Inc.	Formosa		896,300
	Japan		1,106,336
East Asiatic Co., Ltd.	Africa		7,000
Edward Kincaid	U.S.A.		49,999
F. E. Zuellig, Inc.	Hawaii		100,000
Findlay Millar Timber Co.	U.S.A.		75,869
General Enterprises, Inc.	Japan		1,844,823
	U.S.A.	20,720	
	Japan		529,493
General Lumber Co., Inc.	Formosa		520,253
G. S. Mañalac Enterprises	Japan		2,423,694
Go He	Japan		238,813
Hercules Lumber Co., Inc.	Japan		1,499,996
Iligan Lumber Co.	Japan		500,265
Insular Lumber Company	U.S.A.	833,975	
	Africa	317,447	
	Hawaii		103,186

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Jorge J. Tirador	Japan		566,692
Johnston Lumber Co., Inc.	U.S.A.	27,285	
Inc.	Japan		1,956,234
Kiwalan Lumber Co., Inc.	Japan		299,883
Lanao Timber Mill, Inc.	Japan		551,928
Luzon Lumber Mfg. Enterprises	Japan		600,000
Martha Lumber Mill, Inc.	U.S.A.		190,364
Misamis Lumber Co., Inc.	Japan		2,620,000
Nasipit Lumber Co., Inc.	U.S.A.	293,943	275,000
North Camerines Lumber Co., Inc.	Canada		32,246
Ralph Dempsey	Japan	102,398	500,001
Redwood Company	U.S.A.		11,200
Sanchez Logging Co.	Hawaii		5,802
Sta. Clara Lumber Co., Inc.	Japan	845	1,480,200
S. E. MacKichesy	Japan		999,614
Taggat Sawmill Co., Inc.	U.S.A.		326,523
T. H. Valderrama & Sons	U.S.A.		1,373,813
Valeriano C. Bueno Vic Corporation	U.S.A.	92	
West Basilan Timber, Inc.	U.S.A.	123,755	
Western Mindanao Lumber Co., Inc.	Hawaii	113,906	
Woodworks, Inc.	Japan		230,784
	U.S.A.		306,160
	Japan		581,000
	Japan		150,000
	Japan		1,204,187
	U.S.A.	540,307	
	Hongkong	95,000	
Totals		4,483,842	45,492,735

Resume of Exports to:

	Lumber (Bd.Ft.)	Logs (Bd.Ft.)	Total (Bd.Ft.)
Japan	845	41,834,287	41,835,132
United States and Canada	3,485,696	2,121,895	5,607,591
Other countries	997,301	1,536,553	2,533,854
Totals	4,483,842	45,492,735	49,976,577

SUMMARY OF EXPORTS DURING DECEMBER, 1953, ARRANGED BY COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION IN THE ORDER OF VOLUME OF SHIPMENT TO EACH COUNTRY

Countries of Destination	Lumber (Bd.Ft.)	Logs (Bd.Ft.)	Total (Bd.Ft.)
Japan	845	41,834,287	41,835,132
United States	3,453,450	2,121,895	5,575,345
Formosa	—	1,536,553	1,536,553
Hawaii	371,926	—	371,926
Africa	324,447	—	324,447
Hongkong	300,501	—	300,501
Canada	427	—	427
Totals	4,483,842	45,492,735	49,976,577

Trend of Exports to:

	This Month Lumber (Bd.Ft.)	Logs (Bd.Ft.)	Month Ago Lumber (Bd.Ft.)	Logs (Bd.Ft.)	Year Ago Lumber (Bd.Ft.)	Logs (Bd.Ft.)
Japan	845	41,834,287	—	44,953,045	—	21,038,217
United States and Canada	3,485,696	2,121,895	3,291,552	2,341,604	4,340,122	1,461,925
Other countries	997,301	1,536,553	1,125,639	2,270,153	1,466,453	—
Totals	4,483,842	45,492,735	4,417,191	49,366,802	5,806,575	22,500,142

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPORTS MADE TO DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1953

Period	Lumber in Board Feet					Logs in Board Feet					Grand Total
	Western States	Eastern States	Gulf States	All Others	Total	Western States	Eastern States	Gulf States	All Others	Total	
November, 1953	2,212,745	956,914	79,973	41,920	3,291,552	1,136,314	205,290	350,000	650,000	2,341,604	5,633,156
December, 1953	2,471,119	932,239	50,000	92	3,453,450	1,298,848	350,793	—	472,254	2,121,895	5,575,345
Difference (Increase +; Decrease -)	258,374 +	24,675 -	29,973 -	41,828 -	161,898 +	162,534 +	145,503 +	350,000 -	177,746 -	219,709 -	57,811 -

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Arrivals of logs and lumber in Manila during the month under review, aggregating 10,641,866 bd. ft., decreased by 256,556 bd. ft. as compared to arrivals during the previous month of 10,898,422 bd. ft.

During the month under review, December, 1953, there was little change in prices in the local wholesale trade from the previous month's prices of ₱175-₱185 for white lauan and apitong, and ₱195-₱215 for red lauan. The slight easing of the local wholesale lumber market was partly attributed to the reluctance to buy during the inventory-taking period and partly to the slowing down of construction activities during the Holiday season.

THROUGH government initiative and with the cooperation of the concessionaires, attempt is being made to solve the reforestation problem with the objective both of conserving forest-growth and giving direct benefit to forest licensees through the application of the reforestation fees, at least in part, to the rehabilitation of the cut-over areas in the respective concessions.

IN a letter addressed by Mr. A. de las Alas, President of the Philippine Lumber Producers' Association, Inc., to the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the former cited, as the most urgent problem of the industry to be solved by the present Administration, the tremendous tax burden shouldered by lumber producers. Particular reference was made to the 17% exchange tax levied on remittances abroad for the purchase of machinery, implements, and supplies, necessary for operation, replacements, and expansion. There seems to be no reason why sawmill and logging machinery cannot be considered in the same category as agricultural machinery, which by law is exempted from the payment of this charge.

Mining

By HENRY A. BRIMO
President

Philippine Gold Producers Association, Inc.

THE problems of the gold producers have about reached their climax. It is safe to state that our Government authorities realize this fact, but since any conjecture that we might make as to action that may be taken to aid the industry could be superseded by actual developments before this article reaches its readers, we shall avoid speculating on the matter. At this writing, a committee appointed by the Philippine Gold Producers' Association to discuss its problems (namely Judge John W. Haussermann, Messrs. Jan H. Marsman, A. L. Velilla, and the writer) has been told to stand by for a breakfast conference, for which President Magsaysay has expressed a preference, at the earliest opportunity open to him.

The committee feels it will have no difficulty in presenting facts which are startling and true concerning the desperate plight of the gold-producing industry. Of 10 mines which began 1953 in operation, 3 suffered such losses that they were forced to close before the year ended, while the remaining 7 suffered a combined net loss (we are quoting strictly preliminary data only) in the neighborhood of ₱250,000. Including the losses suffered by the 3 mines which shut down during the year, the net loss for the industry in 1953 will be almost ₱2,000,000! Even the 4 mines which ended the year with profits (Baguio Gold, Benguet Consolidated, Surigao Consolidated, and San Mauricio) showed results which definitely place their respective operations in the marginal-class.

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