

LUMBER REVIEW

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Lumber and timber exports in January totalled 23,782,160 board feet, compared with 8,054,728 board feet for the corresponding month in 1936.

Demand in Japan was unusually active; 20,395,672 board feet of round logs, or 85% of the total exports during the month under review, were consigned to that market. Prices of Philippine timber in Japan are reported to have gone up, although this gain is considerably offset by the recent rise in freight rates. Japanese timber buyers continue to seek for new sources of supply and it is generally expected that this year's exportation of log to Japan will surpass that of 1936. In the connection, for year we have been calling attention to the wisdom of curtailing the shipment of logs abroad, particularly to countries which buy round logs and none but an insignificant amount of sawn lumber. Nothing so far has been done about it. In the meanwhile, local lumber manufacturers are feeling the keen competition of Philippine lumber sawn in Japan and re-exported abroad, even to the Philippines. This is to the great detriment of not only the sawmilling industry of the islands but also to Philippine labor. From present indications, consumption of Philippine logs in Japan is bound to increase and it is hoped that some action towards its curtailment will be taken before it is too late.

China is another large buyer of Philippine round logs but unlike Japan she takes in a considerable amount of sawn lumber at the same time. During the month under review, this market consumed an aggregate of 1,005,304 board feet of Philippine woods, 957,392 board feet of which were logs and 47,912 board feet sawn lumber, compared with a total of 319,372 board feet for the corresponding month in 1936. This market has manifested considerable strength since last December but as to whether this will be sustained in the next few months to come remains to be seen, as usually the demand from this source is usually irregular.

The shipping strike in the Pacific Coast naturally resulted in a considerable falling off of lumber and timber shipments to the United States. Lumber and timber exports to this country in January aggregated 627,096 board feet, which was 1,644,272 board feet below that of the previous month and 1,989,912 board feet less than the shipments for January last year. There is, however, a large volume of existing orders in producers' books and prospects for the next few months are bright.

Shipments to Australia during the month under review fell off considerably from the previous month but this was offset to a large extent by a comparatively large consumption in New Zealand. Demands in South Africa and Great Britain were comparatively strong. Consumption by these markets in January consisted entirely of sawn lumber.

The situation in the domestic market continued favorable. Prices were considerably better in January than those prevailing during the corresponding month in 1936. The outlook for this year is bright in view, particularly of the increasing use of timber in the mines. Mill production during the month under review increased 3% compared with the figure for the corresponding period last year. Total deliveries was slightly below production. This, however, was merely a reflection of the shipping strike in the Pacific Coast.

Statement Showing Lumber and Timber Export During the Month of January, 1936 and 1937

Destination	1937		1936	
	Quantity in Board Feet	Customs Declared Value	Quantity in Board Feet	Customs Declared Value
Japan	Unsawn Timber..... 20,395,672	P367,626	5,560,760	P100,705
	Sawn Lumber..... 4,240	400		
China	Unsawn Timber..... 957,392	14,491	319,272	6,874
	Sawn Lumber..... 47,912	2,631		4
Great Britain	Unsawn Timber..... 998,096	73,360	305,704	21,153
	Sawn Lumber..... 627,096	51,200	961,208	50,258
United States	Unsawn Timber..... 326,056	24,352	178,504	10,015
	Sawn Lumber..... 170,024	11,340		
British Africa	Unsawn Timber..... 92,008	5,082	35,192	2,848
	Sawn Lumber..... 61,904	7,314	11,024	811
Sweden	Unsawn Timber..... 40,704	2,781	280,264	1,681
	Sawn Lumber..... 22,472	2,507		11,264
Portuguese Africa	Unsawn Timber..... 13,992	1,272	71,232	5,308
	Sawn Lumber..... 8,904	855		
Swedish	Unsawn Timber..... 7,208	775		
	Sawn Lumber..... 6,784	883		
Australia	Unsawn Timber..... 1,696	92		
	Sawn Lumber..... 47,488	2,254		
Canada	Unsawn Timber..... 52,576	9,838		
	Sawn Lumber..... 21,523,088	P393,457	6,111,536	P132,226
Ireland	Unsawn Timber..... 2,259,072	173,504	1,943,192	113,753
	Sawn Lumber..... 23,782,160	P566,961	8,054,728	P245,979
Greece	Unsawn Timber.....			
	Sawn Lumber.....			
Netherlands	Unsawn Timber.....			
	Sawn Lumber.....			
Finland	Unsawn Timber.....			
	Sawn Lumber.....			
Egypt	Unsawn Timber.....			
	Sawn Lumber.....			
Hongkong	Unsawn Timber.....			
	Sawn Lumber.....			
Singapore	Unsawn Timber.....			
	Sawn Lumber.....			
Total	Unsawn Timber..... 21,523,088	P393,457	6,111,536	P132,226
	Sawn Lumber..... 2,259,072	173,504	1,943,192	113,753
Grand Total	23,782,160	P566,961	8,054,728	P245,979

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