

LUMBER SITUATION IN JAPAN.

Tokyo, April 23rd, 1941.

C. M. Croft, Commercial Secretary.

In order to adjust the relation between the demand for and supply of lumber, a law has recently been promulgated in Japan by which the administrative authorities may exercise a wide measure of control over the whole lumber industry. The law provides that orders may be issued governing the selling prices of standing timber, and species or kinds of lumber may be designated and instructions may be given producers, merchants or importers requiring them to sell such designated species to the Japanese Lumber Co. Ltd., a company which is to be formed to administer the control over the lumber trade. Orders may be issued prohibiting or restricting the consumption of the designated kinds of lumber and sawmillers may be given instructions as to the kinds of wood which may be sawn. Provisions also exist by which all transactions in lumber may be subjected to a permit system.

The Lumber Control Law has not, at the time of writing, been brought into force, but will be made effective by Imperial Ordinance to be promulgated at a later date.

A report was recently made available showing the general lumber situated in Japan. The following table shows the acreage of lands which have been cleared and also those which have been afforested during each of the five years from 1935 to 1939 inclusive :

			Area of Wood Lands	
			Cleared.	Afforested.
			1,000 Acres.	1,000 Acres.
1935	...	...	1,058	874
1936	...	...	1,156	940
1937	...	...	1,151	948
1938	...	...	1,202	1,046
1939	...	...	1,300	1,082

With respect to the supply and use of lumber in Japan Proper, information available shows that the beginning of 1940 there were stocks estimated to amount to 291,410,000 cubic feet, while the production in that year was 960,250,000 cubic feet; there were "internal imports" (that is from other parts of the Japanese Empire) of 27,820,000 cubic feet and external imports of 32,290,000 cubic feet, making a total supply of 1,311,770,000 cubic feet. The home consumption totalled 918,560,000 cubic feet, internal exports amounted to 55,780,000 cubic feet and external exports to 86,850,000 cubic feet, thus leaving stocks at the end of 1940 of 250,580,000 cubic feet.

Of the domestic consumption in 1940, estimated at 918,560,000 cubic feet, it is believed that 169,220,000 cubic feet was used for building purposes and furniture making, 96,740,000 cubic feet for packing purposes, 115,660,000 cubic feet for mining, 80,720,000 cubic feet for pulp making, 36,560,000 cubic feet for ships, 24,970,000 cubic feet for road construction, 29,360,000 cubic feet for vehicles, 33,460,000 cubic feet for railway sleepers, 13,120,000 cubic feet for poles and the balance of 318,750,000 cubic feet was used for various unspecified purposes.

Resulting Tree Stocks per lb. of Seed.

Extract from *N.Z. Forest Service Records, 1926-1939.*

Compiled by A. C. FORBES.

	Species	Imported Seed			Local Collection		
		Lots (1)	Lbs. of Seed Involved (2)	Trees per lb. (3)	Lots (1)	Lbs. of Seed Involved (2)	Trees per lb. (3)
1	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	5	2½	8,000	2	30	18,600
2	<i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i>	—	—	—	15	288	35,000
3	<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	—	—	—	5	350	7,000
4	<i>Larix decidua</i>	2	82	20,000	—	—	—
5	<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	3	25	4,000	2	133	1,670
6	<i>Pinus caribaea</i>	8	414	7,000	—	—	—
7	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	3	9	14,500	—	—	—
8	<i>Pinus laricio</i>	5	842	11,800	10	593	16,700
9	<i>Pinus muricata</i>	—	—	—	7	202	23,000
10	<i>Pinus murrayana</i>	8	92	39,000	5	297	40,000
11	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	13	380	1,500	—	—	—
12	<i>Pinus patula</i>	6	60	24,000	1	3	33,600
13	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	2	5	2,500	5	101	5,900
14	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	17	7,800	3,700	—	—	—
15	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	—	—	—	23	3,530	11,500
16	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	2	11	2,000	1	4	3,680
17	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	3	82	10,000	—	—	—
18	<i>Pseudotsuga taxifolia</i>	11	1,737	15,000	10	256	24,500
19	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	7	818	9,500	4	248	11,000
20	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	10	20	64,500	—	—	—

(1) Number of separate sowings of seed.

(2) Aggregate number of lbs. of seed.

(3) Signifies actual trees planted out after nursery operations completed.
In all cases seed was sown in the same year as collected or imported.

Variations in the Yield of Forest Tree Seed Per Pound.

Compiled from various sources.—by A. C. FORBES.

Species	Wakely (1)		Toumey & Stevens (2)			Cox (3)	Yale (4)	Schenck (5)	Rafn (6)	S.F.S. (7)	
	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Maximum						Average
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>				80,000	234,500	129,400			118,000	180,000	
<i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i>				55,200	162,000	92,900			245,700	270,400	
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>				64,000	187,400	94,800			59,400	104,500	
<i>Larix decidua</i>				15,000	15,700	15,300	71,400		78,000	64,500	
<i>Pinus caribaea</i>	13,470	19,660	15,500							14,500	
<i>Pinus echinata</i>	41,610	84,960	69,200							51,100	
<i>Pinus excelsa</i>				9,700	10,300	10,100			45,000	12,700	
<i>Pinus laricio</i>				23,300	32,600	29,200			9,700	30,700	
<i>Pinus murrayana</i>						109,600	83,000	120,000	100,000	101,300	
<i>Pinus muricata</i>				4,700	8,100	6,200			45,000	49,000	
<i>Pinus palustris</i>	4,010	8,000	5,200				9,600		6,500	5,100	
<i>Pinus patula</i>				8,800	11,400	9,400			52,800	67,000	
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>				8,400	20,300	11,500			8,500	10,200	
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>							12,600	11,200	8,900	8,600	
<i>Pinus radiata</i>				24,000	43,200	28,100			13,400	17,600	
<i>Pinus strobus</i>				16,400	55,200	27,400			25,400	27,200	
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	17,240	29,260	21,300				26,800	27,500	19,200	20,900	
<i>Pseudotsuga taxifolia</i>				31,000	66,700	45,900			43,700	51,300	
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>				99,400	141,000	115,700			104,300	143,100	
<i>Thuja plicata</i>				275,400	490,800	418,500			409,800	402,200	

- References: (1) U.S.D.A. Technical Bulletin 492. Artificial Reforestation in Southern Pine Region, Philip C. Wakely, 1935.
 (2) School of Forestry—Yale University Bulletin 21: Testing of Coniferous Tree Seeds. J. W. Toumey & C. L. Stevens, 1928.
 (3) U.S.F.S. Bulletin 98: Reforestation of the National Forests. W. T. Cox, 1911.
 (4) School of Forestry—Yale University—Seeding and Planting in practice of Forestry. J. W. Toumey, 1916.
 (5) Art of Second Growth—C. A. Schenck, 1912.
 (6) Testing of Forest Tree Seeds 1887-1912. Johannes Rafn, Copenhagen, 1915.
 (7) Records of State Forest Service, N.Z., 1940.