

Shanghai, China, June 15, 1937.

Subject: Shanghai Lumber Market May, 1937.

Submitted by: C. E. Christopherson, Trade Commissioner.

(Required Report, Reference: M. I., Page VII-12)

1925

BU. FOR. & COM. COIN.

JUL 14 1937

FOREIGN

The following radiogram giving import statistics for China during April and market conditions in Shanghai during May was forwarded June 11:

"Total China lumber imports April 30.6 million board feet compared 19.5 million sapely. Imports hardwood totalled 9.3 million feet compared 4.5 million feet sapely. Unistates supplied .3% Philippine Islands 38% Netherlands India 23% Japan 13% British North Borneo 13% Canada 2%. Imports softwood totalled 21.3 million feet compared 15 million sapely. Unistates supplied 45% Canada 41% Japan 12%. Imports sleepers during April totalled 105,000 pieces compared 154,000 sapely. Arrivals Shanghai during May totalled 16.7 million feet consisting 4.3 million feet Oregon pine hemlock and cottonwood logs 362,000 feet piling 253,000 feet sleepers balance rough Oregon pine and flooring. Shanghai stocks estimated 20 million feet. Local demand satisfactory during month with fair amount of orders placed for July August delivery. Shipping space slightly easier. American prices somewhat lower due accumulation stocks at mills. Local price slightly weakened with first grade being quoted at yuan 160 per M. British and Chinese Corporation Limited local financing concern has issued tender on behalf Nanking Shanghai Railway for 129.7 thousand sleepers Douglas fir creosoted with alternative Jarrah sleepers. Tender specifies articles must be products of British Empire."

Limited activity continued in the Shanghai market during May with a fair amount of orders being placed for July-August delivery. Increased arrivals during May did not result in a corresponding increase in stocks on hand at the end of the month, indicating a slight improvement in the consumption over April. While the lumber business is still considered to be well below normal the trade is in a sound position, collections are good and credit is slightly easier.

Comparative statistics of imports into Shanghai and China during April

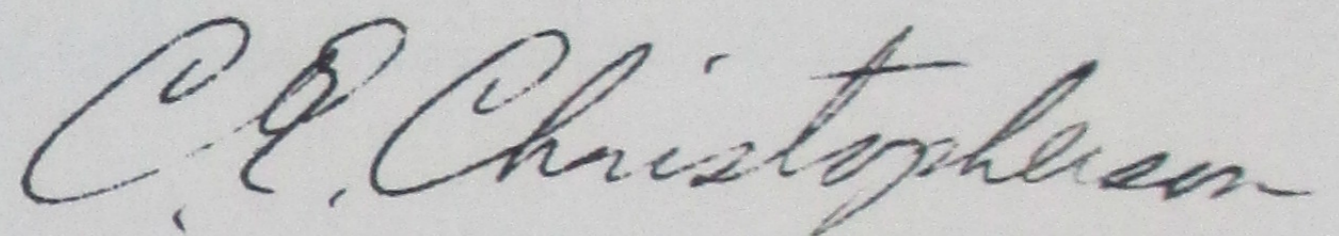
1/ are attached.

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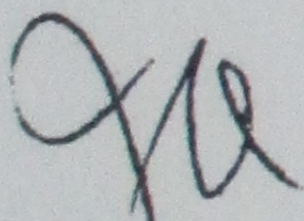
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A tender for 129,000 creosoted Oregon pine sleepers for the Shanghai-Nanking Railway has been issued by the British and Chinese Corporation, Ltd. which is a financing corporation controlled by the Jardine Engineering Corp. and the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. The purchase of these sleepers is evidently being financed by part of the £ 800,000 loan recently granted to this railway by the British and Chinese Corp. as the tender specifies that the sleepers must be British products. A copy of the tender 2/ is attached.



C. E. Christopherson,  
Trade Commissioner.

Approved for transmission



Julian Arnold,  
Commercial Attache.

Enclosure No. 41143

CEC:MB

TIMBER IMPORTED into CHINA during April 1937, and total to date, with comparative figures for 1936.

HARDWOOD

From:	Rgh. Hewn & Rd. Logs		Sawn & Mfrd. Timber		Total to Date	
	1936	April 1937	1936	April 1937	Jan. to April, Inc. 1936	1937
Br.No.Borneo	707 M'	912 M'	170 M'	261 M'	3,178 M'	2,671 M'
Canada	63	206	---	---	924	1,150
Japan	1,879	1,106	14	139	4,641	4,492
Korea	333	214	---	---	548	616
Neth. India	---	1,594	---	513	7	2,154
Philippine I.	---	3,196	385	291	3,136	9,034
Siam	216	100	---	70	726	926
Sts.Settlements	26	4	148	462	639	1,187
U.S.A.	123	26	---	---	1,689	92
Kwantung L.T.	368	---	---	---	658	30
Others	53	188	28	1	283	334
Total	3,768 M'	7,546 M'	745 M'	1,737 M'	16,429 M'	22,686 M'
Re-Exported	---	---	---	---	3	---
Net	3,768 M'	7,546 M'	745 M'	1,737 M'	16,426 M'	22,686 M'

SOFTWOOD

From:						
Canada	826 M'	6,302 M'	5,495 M'	2,389 M'	17,762 M'	27,132 M'
Japan	242	2,354	31	165	997	7,236
Korea	41	---	---	---	474	598
U.S.A.	4,390	2,867	3,600	6,685	24,149	11,869
Kwantung L.T.	44	213	64	5	1,069	382
Others	14	226	233	124	438	509
Total	5,557 M'	11,962 M'	9,423 M'	9,368 M'	44,937 M'	47,736 M'
Re-exported	---	---	---	---	22	16
Net	5,557 M'	11,962 M'	9,423 M'	9,368 M'	44,915 M'	47,710 M'

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

From:	April 1937	Jan. to Apr. 1936	Jan. to Apr. 1937
	--- Pcs.	2 Pcs.	14,109 Pcs.
Australia	---	290,065 "	---
Canada	---	---	23,191 "
Japan	22,191 "	---	33,562 "
U.S.A.	83,156 "	36,069 "	3,322 "
Others	93	1,987 "	124,184 "
Total	105,440 "	328,123 "	---
Re-exported	---	8 "	124,184 "
Net	105,440 "	328,115 "	---

Timber imported into SHANGHAI from January to April 1937 inclusive, with comparative figures for the same period of 1936.

From:	Rgh. Hewn & Rd. Logs		Sawn & Mfrd. Timber		Total to Date	
	1936	April 1937	1936	April 1937	Jan. to April inc. 1936	1937
Br.No.Borneo	28 M'	570 M'	159 M'	125 M'	457 M'	942 M'
Canada	63	205	---	---	905	364
Japan	702	579	14	115	1,342	1,960
Korea	333	214	---	---	490	437
Neth.India	---	1,594	---	511	7	2,152
Philippine I.	---	3,196	350	227	3,101	8,916
Sts.Settlements	---	---	132	373	417	983
U.S.A.	123	---	---	---	1,156	---
Kwantung L.T.	239	---	---	---	459	27
Others	---	12	21	---	83	67
Total	1,488 M'	6,370 M'	676 M'	1,351 M'	8,417 M'	15,848 M'
Re-exported	---	---	---	---	---	---
Net	1,488 M'	6,370 M'	676 M'	1,351 M'	8,417 M'	15,848 M'

#### SOFTWOOD

From:						
Canada	826 M'	4,288 M'	3,024 M'	1,739 M'	13,695 M'	16,022 M'
Japan	10	---	31	23	116	37
Korea	---	---	---	---	---	7,240
U.S.A.	2,611	965	3,509	5,457	19,941	---
Kwantung L.T.	---	---	---	---	8	---
Others	---	---	13	2	42	5
Total	3,447 M'	5,253 M'	6,577 M'	7,221 M'	33,802 M'	23,302 M'
Re-exported	---	---	---	---	11	16
Net	3,447 M'	5,253 M'	6,577 M'	7,221 M'	33,791 M'	23,286 M'

#### RAILWAY SLEEPERS

From:	April 1937	Jan. to April 1936	Jan. to April 1937
Australia	---	---	10,325 pcs.
Canada	---	---	---
U.S.A.	83,156 pcs.	18,000 pcs.	83,156
Others	---	2	6
Total:	83,156 pcs.	18,002 pcs.	93,487 pcs.