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Hem Exports
Ext. Can.

Production

Timber Controller for B.C.

1941-1942

ENR No.

5-4-5

MacMILLAN BLOEDEL LIMITED

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ORIGINAL ORDER

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Timber Controller for B.C.

October 23, 1942

Airmail

Mr. A.S. Nicholson,
Timber Controller,
Department of Munitions & Supply,
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:

We have not heard from you in reply to our letter of September 23rd wherein we drew to your attention the serious situation existing here in connection with the inventory of peelable fir logs. Nor have we heard of any action being taken that would make available to the plywood mills additional supplies of this type of log.

At this date we deem it advisable to bring to your attention again the question of peeler logs.

As you are well aware, this period of the year in British Columbia is the ideal logging season and log inventories should be building up rather than deteriorating.

For your information we give you the fir peeler log inventories we had on hand at this date in the last three years:

October 1940	-	14,905 M
" 1941	-	8,021 M
" 1942	-	2,864 M

The inventory we have today, operating as we are on a two shift basis, is sufficient to last us for one month only. When we wrote you on September 23rd we enclosed a letter dated September 18th addressed to Mr. Rosenberry giving our inventory at that time of 4,260 M.

You will observe from the above figures that in the past month our inventory of peelable logs has gone down to the extent of one third.

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Mr. A.S. Nicholson,

October 23, 1942

With the very heavy requirements for the British Timber Control, as well as an increasing volume that has been coming into your Vancouver office for Canadian requirements, it is obvious that some immediate action is imperative to make available to the Plywood operators additional supplies of logs in order to make it possible to produce the plywood to fulfill the contracts.

It would be disastrous from our standpoint to curtail our operations further than what we have already done and let our trained crews disband and take up other work. It would be equally unfortunate to see machinery idle that is available to produce goods so urgently required for the lack of logs.

We are addressing you on this subject at this time so that a decision may be made before we ourselves are forced to lay off experienced plywood workers and let our equipment lay idle.

Yours very truly,

BRITISH COLUMBIA PLYWOODS LTD.

E. B. Ballentine

EBB:ED

CC Mr. D.D. Rosenberry

1941-1942

ENCL No.

5-4-5

September 23, 1942

Mr. A.S. Nicholson,
Timber Controller,
Department of Munitions & Supply,
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith copy of letter dated September 18th addressed to Mr. D.D. Rosenberry, Assistant Timber Controller at Vancouver, regarding our inventory of peelable fir logs.

We thought that we should take this matter up with you, particularly in view of the very serious situation that is confronting us today.

A recent issue of the Timber Trade Journal, dated September 5th, carried the enclosed clipping and we thought with this news item being broadcast in England we should take up with you the matter of a supply of logs.

In view of the enclosed statement we hesitated to advise the British Timber Controller that we will have to curtail our shipments in the future to the United Kingdom as we are finding it necessary to lay off a shift due to the shortage of logs.

Our peeler log inventory has been gradually declining each month during the current year and there are some reasons for this. One of course which you are familiar with being the lack of sufficient labour to operate the various logging camps to capacity that would give us a larger supply of this type of log. However, in addition to this we wish to mention that peelable logs which we secured prior to this year from the Kissinger Operations and the Sorenson Operations, which are on the west side of the Island at Port Renfrew, are not now coming to us but rather going to sawmills in Victoria and being converted there into lumber, some of which, we understand, into aircraft fir specifications.

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September 23, 1942

Mr. A.S. Nicholson,

The question that arises out of these logs going to a sawmill is one that no doubt you would like to get definite information about. If they were converted into plywood we would say that 100% of the log would reach the United Kingdom in the form of plywood, which is an article they badly need, whereas the same logs being converted into aircraft fir possibly would mean their obtaining a small percentage of the total log.

With the winter coming on we are faced with the grave decision of laying off one shift in order to protect ourselves from the logs that may become available in order that we may operate one shift through the winter months.

The writer spoke to Mr. Rosenberry personally about this matter but upon reading the item enclosed herewith in the Timber Trade Journal today we deemed it advisable to open this subject up with yourself.

You will note from the enclosed letter that we have not over six weeks supply of fir logs on hand and the future does not look as though we can build up this supply unless you issue orders that peelable logs can not be converted in sawmills.

We would be very grateful to have word from you regarding this matter.

Yours very truly,

MacMILLAN INDUSTRIES LTD.

E.B. Ballentine

EBB:ED

AIRMAIL

cc DD Rosenberry
Enc.

Ham Exports
Ext. Can.
Production
Timber Controller for B.C.

September 18, 1942

Mr. D.D. Rosenberry,
Assistant Timber Controller,
Department of Munitions & Supply,
Marine Building,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Sir:

This is to advise you that our inventory of fir peelable logs as of today is 4,260,000'.

This is sufficient logs for about a six weeks operation on two shifts and as our inventory has been steadily declining throughout the year we thought we should bring the matter to your attention.

Unless additional logs are forthcoming it will be necessary for us to consider the laying off of one shift in order to protect ourselves with sufficient logs to operate one shift through the winter months.

For your information, a year ago, that is in September 1941, our log inventory was 9,953,000'.

Yours very truly,

BRITISH COLUMBIA PLYWOODS LTD.

E. B. Ballentine

EBB:ED

1941-10-15

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5-4-5

COPY FOR E. B. B.

May 4th, 1942.

Mr. D. D. Rosenberry,
Assistant Timber Controller for British Columbia,
1732 Marine Bldg.,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Further to our conversation of last Friday regarding Peelers, we have checked very carefully our log position both present and future. We find that we only have thirty days of Peelable Fir on hand and while we are most anxious to keep continuous operation, we have reluctantly decided to lay off one shift. With the Fire Season approaching and a dangerously low inventory on hand, we could not see any possibility of continuing even a two-shift operation if we continued any longer with three shifts, thus further depleting our log supply.

A factor that has seriously reduced our Peeler log supply has been the reduction of the large mill of the Canadian White Pine Co. Ltd. from a three-shift to a two-shift and then to the present one-shift basis. This gives a greatly reduced volume on which the Plywood plant relied for a considerable proportion of its requirements.

We therefore are very hopeful that the measures you are taking will be sufficiently effective to at least provide log supply for our present two-shift operation, and can assure you that if and when the log position will justify a third shift, we will immediately take steps to increase our production accordingly.

Yours very truly,

H. R. MacMILLAN EXPORT CO. LTD.

W. J. Van Dusen,
Vice President.

WJV:McC

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1941-1942

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