

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
APO#234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

23-44
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INTERROGATION NO. 265
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE : Tokyo
DATE: 6 Nov. 1945

DIVISION OF ORIGIN : CEC

SUBJECT: JAPAN LUMBER PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

Personnel interrogated and background of each:
Toyo MATSUO- Secretary in Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
Sake Shibata- Forest Engineer of Forest Products Section
of Agriculture & Forestry.

WHERE INTERVIEWED: Meiji Bldg. Room 361

INTERROGATOR: Capt. ROSENBLATT

INTERPRETER: Lt. (jg) Holmes

ALLIED OFFICERS PRESENT: Lt. Call & Sgt. Robinson.

SUMMARY: The annual cutting capacity of Japan forests for lumber purposes is estimated at 60 million koku or 7200 million bd. ft. The actual cutting of logs for lumber purposes increased from 71 million koku in 1937 to 106 million koku in 1944. This increase was necessary to meet the demand for domestic lumber as the supply of structural steel for building purposes decreased. With the accelerated cutting of trees from lumber and firewood the forests of Japan would be depleted and hill bare in about 7 years.

Note statistics

INTERROGATION

Mr. MATSUO speaks English fairly well. All questions were asked and answered in English. Mr. SHIBATA supplied most of the information as he has been in his present position for 16 years.

The following tables were submitted in response to a questionnaire submitted to Mr. OTA of the Forestry Bureau on 30 Oct. 1945.

1. Import of Lumber 1937 to 1945
2. export of Lumber 1937 to 1945
3. Demand Actual Production and stock on Hand at end of year, including import 1937 to 1945
4. List of Lumber Production in recent 3 years by Prefectures.
5. List of Lumber Production as classified by use 1943 and 1944.
6. The organization chart of Forestry Ministry.
7. Cutting capacity in 1937.

Q. Do the export figures include lumber used by the Army and Navy at the front?

A. No. The Army and Navy transported their own material but mostly they "picked up" the material at the spot.

Q. Are the figures in table No. 3 for logs or sawed lumber?

A. All figures are for logs. The conversion of logs to sawed lumber is 75%, but this figure cannot be applied directly to the figures in this table as some lumber as piles etc., are used without sawing.

Q. In table No. 3 where did you get the figure for Demand?

A. After 1944 these figures were made up by the Munitions Ministry and sent to the Forestry Bureau. Before 1944 the Agriculture and Forestry Minister drew up the figures. The Forestry Bureau broke down the demand figures and notified each Prefecture of their share. The actual Production figures in this table are obtained from reports from the Lumber Companies for each Prefecture. The next table (Table No. 4) shows the amount produced by Prefecture.

Q. Is the stock on hand figure included in the demand or Actual Production figures and why do they increase in 1944?

A. No. The stock on hand is only the inventory of logs at the end of the fiscal year. There were more logs on hand at the end fro 1944 (April 1, 1945) because the transportation was not good.

Q. In general how was lumber transported?

A. Mostly by railroad. From HAKKAIDO by ship. Trucks were only used locally.

Q. Is it possible to get figures on Army and Navy uses?

A. Army and Navy figures are not available. It is estimated that the Army and Navy uses are, about 55% of the total as, General Construction 60%, Shipbuilding 50%, Cartwright 30%, telephone poles 30%, pile 60%, Venier 50%, Airplane 100%. Some times timber for underground storage was used by the Army and Navy.

Q. How is the lumber industry controlled?

A. The Japan Lumber Company has control of the distribution of special items of lumber. One lumber company is formed in each prefecture and the distribution of all lumber is handled by that lumber company.

Q. Does the Forestry Bureau deal with the Prefecture lumber companies through the Japan Lumber Company?

A. No. The Forestry Bureau deals directly with the Prefectural Lumber Company and they report directly to the Forestry Bureau.

Q. What is the amount of logs that could be cut annually for lumber purposes without depleting the forest?

A. About 60 million Koku. See table No. 7.

Q. If the timber is continued to be cut at the rate of 1000 million koku how long would the forest last?

A. About seven years then the hills would be bare. More trees are cut for fuel than for lumber. The condition of the of the forests are bad. Coal and other fuels are now being studied for more extensive use as fuel to save wood.

Attached are tables from (1) one to (7) seven, from the Forestry Ministry.

No. 1.

IMPORT OF LUMBERNov. 1, 1945
Unit 1000 koku

YEARS	TAIWAN	KOREA	MANCHURIA	U.S.A.	OTHERS	TOTAL
1937	106	239	98	3,397	6,914	10,754 (including products in Canada.)
1938	183	177	77	1,022	2,568	4,027
1939	186	181	99	1,084	2,528	4,078
1940	223	262	72	1,220	2,766	4,543
1941	151	116	34	149	1,978	2,428
1942	62	16	67	-	1,139	1,284
1943	2	31	8	-	98	139
1944	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	913	1,022	455	6,872	17,991	27,253

NO.2

EXPORT OF LUMBER

Unit 1000 koku

YEARS	TAIWAN	KOREA	MANCHURIA	U.S.A.	OTHERS	TOTAL
1937	1,798	1,439	611	55	2,110	6,113
1938	1,918	1,777	2,389	23	3,357	9,464
1939	1,974	3,180	7,009	25	5,309	17,497
1940	2,554	3,162	2,008	-	4,469	12,193
1941	1,644	2,307	660	-	2,142	6,753
1942	494	1,838	1,944	-	124	4,400
1943	266	521	17	-	542	1,346
1944	6	714	18	-	902	1,640
Total	10,654	14,938	14,656	103	18,955	59,306

NO.3.

Demand, Actual Production and Stock at Hand at the
End of the Year, including Import. Unit 1000 koku

FISCAL YEAR		DEMAND	ACTUAL PRODUCTION	STOCK AT HAND AT THE END OF YEAR.
1937	A	73,309	71,295	24,737
	B	-	10,754	-
1938	A	73,259	79,895	26,684
	B	-	4,027	-
1939	A	85,868	94,537	24,019
	B	-	4,078	-
1940	A	88,415	92,479	21,662
	B	-	4,543	-
1941	A	94,259	96,335	31,147
	B	-	2,428	-
1942	A	92,696	89,565	24,810
	B	-	1,284	-
1943 (1)	A	-	20,750	-
	B	-	-	-
(2)	A	-	19,153	-
	B	-	-	-
(3)	A	-	23,512	-
	B	-	-	-
(4)	A	-	36,828	-
	B	-	-	-
(Total)	A	92,251	100,243	30,626
	B	-	139	-
1944 (1)	A	-	24,763	-
	B	-	-	-
(2)	A	-	22,867	-
	B	-	-	-
(3)	A	-	23,331	-
	B	-	-	-
(4)	A	-	35,662	-
	B	-	-	-
(Total)	A	98,604	106,623	37,005
	B	-	-	-

Remarks re No. 3 table.
"A" means Domestic
"B" means Import

LIST OF LUMBER PRODUCTION IN RECENT 3 YEARS BY PREFECTURES.
(unit 1000 koku)

Prefecture	FISCAL YEAR					
	1943		1944		1945 (Apr.-Sept)	
	Demand	Production	Demand	Production	Demand	Production
Hokkaido	16118.7	14148.4	16118.7	14944.7	16121.0	(6000)
Aomori	593.4	768.4	799.5	380.0	818.0	(320)
Iwate	1933.4	2069.9	2348.2	2370.7	2008.6	(881.2)
Miyagi	747.9	920.8	759.3	818.9	634.5	(400)
Akita	748.5	1145.6	1051.8	1354.9	1002.6	(556.3)
Yamagata	1350.8	1132.4	1625.3	1654.0	1055.5	(256.5)
Fukushima	2200.8	2504.4	2615.1	2203.6	2266.9	(575.6)
Ibaragi.	1598.6	1415.0	1635.0	1636.4	1541.6	(480.0)
Tochigi	1732.4	1947.7	2039.8	2279.2	2062.4	813.2
Gumma	1263.1	1422.8	1386.9	1408.1	1396.1	323.8
Saitama	481.9	607.7	683.9	792.2	680.9	176.1
Chiba	1207.5	1399.0	1388.8	1464.8	1366.7	1335.4
Tokyo	419.1	407.4	635.9	668.0	648.6	199.4
Kanagawa	349.3	360.4	558.2	600.8	580.1	(160)
Niigata	1200.2	1462.9	1436.1	1667.3	1399.1	662.5
Toyama	444.6	543.2	751.1	752.9	768.2	294
Ishikawa	859.1	1208.9	1055.0	1173.3	1094.5	141.9
Fukui	869.8	1071.0	1025.1	1060.2	1023.6	(300)
Yamanashi	1127.3	1399.2	1175.2	1254.5	1177.2	412.1
Nagano	2543.3	2844.3	2927.0	2790.8	2933.3	913.9
Gifu	1449.2	2254.6	2250.2	2463.6	2253.0	(600)
Shizuoka	2748.2	2164.0	2065.9	2059.0	2019.4	(580)
Aichi	848.7	1255.3	1189.3	994.9	1203.0	494.5
Miye	2825.2	2703.9	2623.4	2255.2	2317.8	608.7
Shiga	696.8	700.5	823.6	750.0	826.6	164.4
Kyoto	1506.6	1114.4	1629.4	891.2	1124.1	330.7
Osaka	409.1	273.2	452.2	305.6	452.7	135.8
Hyogo	2701.6	2826.7	2817.7	3008.1	2924.5	(1400)
Nara	2546.3	2356.0	2744.3	1994.0	2756.5	843.0
Wakayama	2539.8	2561.5	2560.2	2473.7	2571.3	(700)
Tottori	1519.9	1140.0	1626.5	1047.6	1214.6	343.7
Shimane	1802.2	2140.8	1827.6	2167.6	1715.2	422.5
Okayama	1659.1	2144.7	1900.8	2279.9	1892.0	737.1
Hiroshima	2376.6	2707.4	2389.5	2588.8	2388.2	(600)
Yamaguchi	2316.3	3061.1	2937.1	2955.4	2621.0	810.4
Tokushima	1467.0	1394.4	1633.9	1510.8	1619.8	(400)
Kagawa	229.7	227.9	241.1	249.7	243.7	42.0
Ehime	2908.3	2229.7	3433.8	3617.7	2856.1	(600)
Kouchi	1578.4	1864.3	1812.1	1892.2	1633.3	(540)
Fukuoka	1740.1	2323.6	2239.8	2344.8	2253.2	628.2
Saga	593.7	736.5	729.4	660.6	736.1	272.9
Nagasaki	744.8	795.0	887.3	761.4	911.6	(200)
Kumamoto	2537.9	2375.2	2915.7	2927.2	2865.7	723
Chita	2640.1	2433.6	2756.7	2238.1	2743.0	872
Miyazaki	2488.2	1675.9	2689.2	2801.3	2714.9	(540)
Kagoshima	2746.4	2203.4	2702.0	2695.9	2714.5	1181.4
Okinawa	106.0	66.4	104.6	196.7	104.2	-
Government)						
Forest)	12545.5	11405.7	11165.0	10433.9	9875.1	1779.1
Imperial)						
Forest)	2548.8	2327.5	2650.9	4212.9	2799.4	(1000)
TOTAL	100,610.0	100,242.6	107,815.1	106,623.1	102,929.9	32751.3

Remarks regarding No. 4 table

"Hokkaido" figures for both government and private forest.

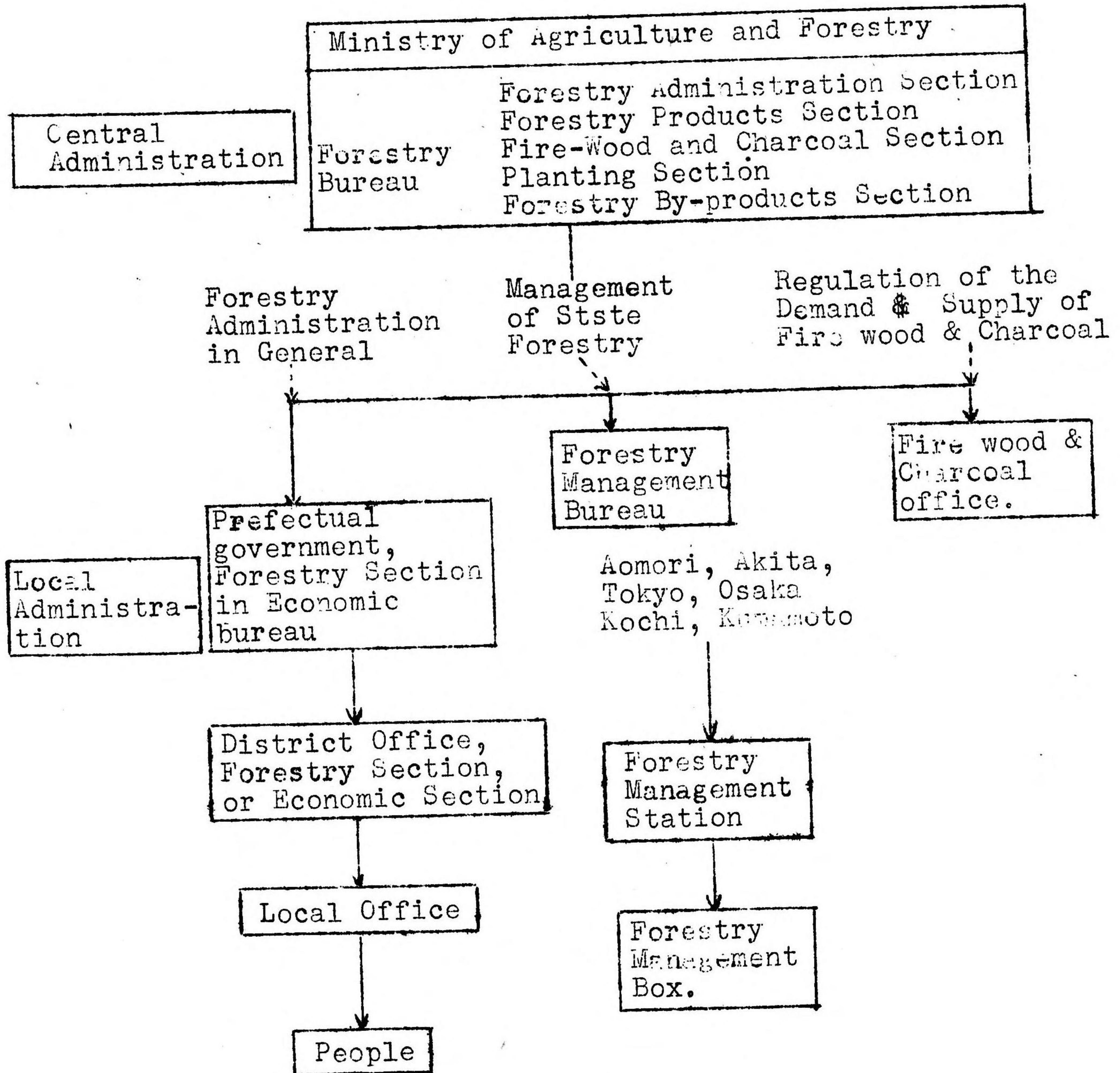
Other prefectures figures for private forests only:
 "Government Forests" figures for territories throughout Japan
 excluding "Hokkaido"

Figures in () are approximate estimated quantity.

Use	1943 fiscal		1944 fiscal	
	Demand	Actual Production	Demand	Actual Production
General Construction	66,560	70,582	69,085	74,296
Ship Building	11,356	9,151	9,043) 8,857
Cartwright	1,252	894	1,180	
Mine Timber	9,912	10,493	13,259	11,605
Ties R. R.	2,924	2,176	2,661	1,847
Tel. Pole	919	714	1,062	735
Pile	-	729	1,217	952
Pulp	6,420	4,195	5,653	3,937
Veneer	1,267	1,309	829	661
Air Plane	-	-	3,826	3,733
Total	100,610	100,243	107,815	106,623

THE ORGANIZATION CHART OF
FORESTRY ADMINISTRATION

Forestry Bureau, 1945 Nov.



(A) Cutting Capacity in 1937 (Unit 1000 koku)

Private forest (J. P.)	41,279
State forest (J. P.)	7,645
Imperial forest(J. P.)	1,254
Hokkaido	9,489

59,767

(B) Actual cutting amount in 1937 (Unit 1000 koku)
Lumbers for general construction use

Japan proper	64,243
Hokkaido	15,151

79,394

Conversion into log at the rate of 75% i.e. 59,545 koku..