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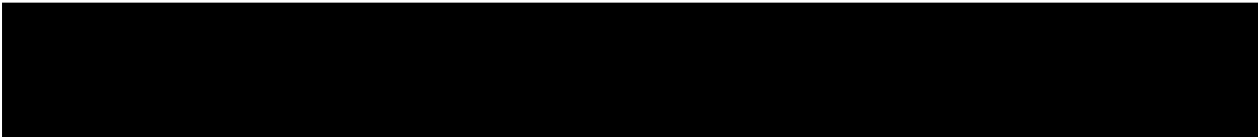
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- (a) "The Timber Agreement and Some of Its Consequences"
- (b) "Soviet Union Reduces Finnish Reparations by 50 Per Cent."

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THE FINNISH PAPER AND TIMBER JOURNAL

# MONTHLY REPORT

No. 6

1948

## THE TIMBER AGREEMENT AND SOME OF ITS CONSEQUENCES.

*By Mr. Rolf Serlachius.*

*Managing Director of the Finnish Sawmill Owners' Association.*

Return to CIA

As will have appeared from the daily press, agreement was recently reached after negotiations in Helsingfors between the Board of Trade Timber Control and the Finnish Sawmill Owners' Association on the subject of sawn goods deliveries to Great Britain in 1948.

The total quantity fixed in the Anglo-Finnish trade negotiations in London in March is 120 000 standards of ordinary sawn timber, in addition to which the Timber Control is entitled to buy further 5 000 stds. of sawn birch-wood and 15 000 stds. of small timber.

The fact that the Swedish sawmills in the course of the negotiations in Stockholm towards the end of April had accepted the British prices of last year automatically had a prejudicing influence on the British market, considering that a quantity of no less than 185 000 stds. was concerned. In these circumstances the Anglo-Finnish price negotiations were restricted in the main to the task of harmonising the prices for the different dimensions and qualities to the level accepted by the Swedes.

It will be remembered that before the war the leading Swedish productions sometimes used to attain a slightly higher price than corresponding Finnish goods. In general the difference was not great; often for battens almost no difference was to be found, whereas Swedish u/s boards reached a price about 5/- to 10/- higher than the corresponding Finnish goods.

Examinations of quality and bracking carried out in recent years at the initiative of the Finnish Sawmill Owners' Association have showed, however, that no differences in quality warrant such a discrepancy of the price. On Finnish side reason thus existed to advance a demand for complete equality in respect of basic prices to those of Swedish goods. Nor were any really matter of fact arguments against these views advanced by the British negotiators, and the principle of equality was therefore accepted.

When nevertheless the British delegation demanded a considerable difference in prices between equal productions of Swedish and Finnish goods, this was therefore due to other reasons. One of the reasons

referred to was the inferior Finnish specifications. And it must be admitted that those sawmills, on which compulsory obligations has been imposed under the reparations agreement or under the current Fennoviet trade agreement, i.e. practically speaking all the bigger or medium sawmills, owing to the difficult Russian specifications, which probably can be compared with stock notes from Archangel, but which considerably exceed the average natural rawmaterial resources in Finland, have experienced some difficulty of offering specifications fully corresponding to the ideal specifications of prewar times. The considerable change in the import into certain countries has on the other hand to some extent made it possible for the shippers to maintain a good average specification. A comparison between the prewar total specifications and those of the past few years proves, however, that on the whole our shippers, with a few minor exceptions, have succeeded remarkably well in their efforts to offer the British market the prewar specifications.

As no essential difference in respect of specifications thus existed, the British demand for a price reduction was turned into a declaration in which the Controller expressed his expectation and trust that the specifications to be offered this year will fulfil reasonable British requirements.

The principal cause of the difficulty in obtaining for Finnish goods the same price as for Swedish goods has consisted in the unquestionably higher freights from Finnish ports. This difference in freight, which developed during the recent years, is a direct consequence of the higher loading costs and the less satisfactory stowing in Finnish ports than in Swedish. According to information provided by the chartering department of the Timber Control, freights from Finnish to British ports in 1947 were on an average 17/6 higher than from Swedish ports. Also in many other countries timber buyers and agents have pointed out this drawback, and have demanded that this freight difference should be taken into account when fixing the fob-price for Finnish goods.

In the course of the conversations with the representatives of the importing countries, both during nego-

## SOVIET UNION REDUCES FINNISH REPARATIONS BY 50 PER CENT.

On June 3rd the Envoy of the Soviet Union in Helsinki, General Lieutenant Savonenkov, informed the Finnish Government that the Soviet Union had decided, to approach the Soviet Government on the question of mitigations in the reparations, to reduce the reparations remaining after July 1st, 1948 by 50 per cent.

It is needless to say that this announcement, of such importance for Finland, was received with the greatest pleasure throughout the population. This pleasure was expressed in numerous speeches of prominent representatives of Finnish public life and in addresses to the Soviet representative, made by different bodies. Various authoritative statements regarding the significance of the reduction were also made, although no specific details are as yet available, and exact calculations of the meaning of the reduction are therefore as yet difficult.

Of the entire reparations amount of 300 million dollars worth of goods, assessed essentially on the basis of the prices in 1938, about half has been paid. Half of the remaining reparations thus amounts to ab. 75 mill. «reparation dollars», but in view of the very considerable rise in prices since 1938, the present dollar parity of the reduction is considerably higher. Exact calculations are difficult but one may count with up to the double amount. The estimates of the Finmark value of the reduction has varied from Fmks. 20 000 to Fmks. 30 000 millions.

It is not yet known in what way the reduction will be applied, whether it will be spread equally on all the different items of the delivery programme or not, and negotiations for revision of the delivery programme will take place in the near future. It is considered probable that the deliveries will continue until 1952 as previously provided.

It is obvious, however, that the effect will be very beneficial to Finland's national economy. If deliveries of her typical export goods are substantially reduced, her capacity of earning more exchange or import facilities will be correspondingly increased. If deliveries of metals and machinery are considerable, less exchange will be needed for such raw materials, and more materials or engineering capacity can be used for such purposes as renewal of e.g. woodworking industry plant. The direct effect on state expenditure is a reduction of roughly Fmks. 6 000 mill., or about 10% of the annual state expenditure. This should make the taxation task of the treasury easier and should also contribute to the possibilities of stabilization.

Simultaneously with this announcement it was also officially confirmed that Bank of Finland had decided to accept a credit of 5 million dollars from the Soviet Union, carrying 2% interest. Also in respect of this loan, further details are still lacking.

tiations and in private discussions, the Finnish side has referred to the very difficult labour situation in recent years, repeated wages adjustments etc. At the same time it has been underlined that conditions have now undergone an essential improvement, particularly in respect of available manpower, equipment etc., which for 1948 should contribute towards normal results.

In view of all the favourable factors existing for satisfactory fulfilment of the annual shipping programme, we would seem to have possibilities not only of restoring the prestige of the Finnish ports and the confidence in their capacity but also — and this is essential — of eliminating all really weighty reasons for a price discrepancy against this country.

The price to the country in the shape of this difference between equal Swedish and Finnish goods on account of the above mentioned drawbacks in Finnish ports, may be calculated at somewhat over £ 300 000 this year. In view of the obvious risk of future quotations being prejudiced if the development in this respect is unfavourable one way or another, every reason thus exists for paying the greatest attention to this year's shipments in this respect.

In spite of the fact that Finland has had to pay this painful penalty, a slight improvement of the

prices as compared with those of last year has been attained, but the increase in price is only a few per cent.

It is naturally difficult to make a forecast of the development of prices for rawmaterials and other costs of production, but certain trends can nevertheless be distinguished. It is already now obvious that the raw material prices for logs obtained during the past winter and the cost of production will exceed the previous estimate. Both timber prices and more particularly the cutting and transport costs have risen so much that together with other cost of production, the producer cost of the sawn goods has risen 40—50 % compared with last year. The small raise obtained for the goods to be shipped to England thus does not cover more than a very small fraction of the rise in production cost. In view of this fact a reduction of the raw material price seems unavoidable. How this reduction should be divided between the root prices and the producing costs is a problem of conflicting interests, which in this connection has to be left aside. What the industry can say for itself is that the possibilities of effecting such economy in costs through the means of rationalising procuring work, that it would to any appreciable extent reduce the margin of loss, are extremely restricted.

## THE VISIT OF THE SPORTS TEAM FROM ALBERT E. REED & CO. LTD.

On June 7th, the sports team of the well-known paper making concern of Albert E. Reed & Co. Ltd., arrived in Finland by the S.S. Arcturus. The visit will last till June 20th and the programme includes not only sports events but also excursions to different places in the country. The visit takes place at the invitation of the United Paper Mills Ltd., and is in response to a similar excursion to England last year of a team from the United Paper Mills.

The British group consists of 4 leaders and 27 sportsmen, all headed by the Managing Director of the company, Col. C. D. Sheldon, who is accompanied by his daughter and son. The football team consists of 15 players, and has competed with considerable success against amateur teams in England. The number of runners, participating either in the cross-country run or the relay race totalled 12. The most prominent of these runners is J. Charlesworth who a couple of years ago represented England in a contest against France.

Upon the arrival in Helsinki of the team, the guests were invited to luncheon at the Vaakuna restaurant, Mr. W. Gräsbeck, the Managing Director of the Finnish Cellulose Union being the host. Among the guests were Mr. J. W. Walden Managing Director of the United Paper Mills Ltd, Mr. Purkiss, Director of the Price and Pierce Ltd, London and the famous Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi. Mr. Gräsbeck addressed the guests in a welcome speech as follows:

It is really a great pleasure for us to-day to see in our midst so many representatives from our friends Messrs. Albert E. Reed.

We have had a very close connection with Albert E. Reed for a long time. The beginning in 1922 was, naturally, on a very modest scale. By 1939 business had grown to a substantial size. The war years, however, interrupted trade between the two countries, but after these war years deliveries have happily shown a steady increase and our sincerest hopes are, that we can soon return to normal trading conditions.

However, much as we are interested in our exports, we have also the keenest interest in sports.

The purpose of your visit here this time is not business, in fact it is for the improvement of our existing friendly relations, which I know will be achieved during the various games that are to take place.

I know that Colonel Sheldon is, as always, very busy at home, and, therefore, I very much appreciate that he has found time to come here and, even more so, that he has been able to bring with him some of Reeds' representatives in the form of a team of sportsmen. It will be a great occasion here to see the games between your team of sportsmen and our own — sports being for you as well as for all of us here of vital interest.

In addition to the games and the running events that are to take place, you will have the opportunity of seeing something of our country and the conditions here. Above all you will have the chance to see some

of our industries at work. I am sure that for many of you this will be your first visit here and, therefore, I would like to remark that Finland like your own country suffered severely during the war years. The cities, villages and factories are in great need of repair, and much time and energy is still required for building homes for our work people. What you are going to see is, therefore, not Finland as it was before the war, nor what we think it ought to be, but at least I can say that we are all working hard.

During your stay here you will in particular have the opportunity of seeing our woodworking industry. This industry is the most important one in our country. Export is of vital importance for us, and the woodworking industries' share of it is about 95 %. Chemical woodpulp represents about a quarter of this woodworking industry. The sawmilling industry is also about a quarter and the other important industries are paper, board and plywood. Textiles are also considerable, though the production during the war and since has been seriously limited by the lack of raw materials. As a result of the war and its consequences our metal industry has also made very remarkable advances.

I have made reference to these matters so that, when you are looking at our country, you will better understand what you are going to see. I hope you will enjoy yourselves. For our part we will try to show you as much as possible, and I hope that, when you go back home, you will take with you a good impression of Finland and feel that you would like to come and see us again.

Personally I am very delighted to be with our old friends Albert E. Reed. I remember the days when I called at Cannon Street and the happy understanding that has grown up between our respective organizations. In this connection I must make reference to my good friends Sir Ralph Reed — a tower of strength to the British paper industry — and to Colonel Sheldon whom we are delighted to see here in person to-day.

I am very pleased that we have here to-day a person, who I am sure I can say is known throughout the world — Paavo Nurmi.

It gives me a very great pleasure to see you all here and to wish you a very hearty welcome to our country.

Before you leave this room I would like you all to take with you a small memento of Finland in the form of a book.

In his reply speech Col. Sheldon expressed the pleasure of the guests of having had such a pleasant opportunity of visiting Finland and he was particularly pleased to find Paavo Nurmi, who enjoys such a high esteem in England, among the guests at the party. He also drew attention to the extremely amicable relations which have always existed between the Reeds company and the Finnish Cellulose Union. When representatives of the United Paper Mills again next year visit England and British teams continue to visit Finland this means that in the



Mr. Walden, Managing Director of the United Paper Mills Ltd. is addressing the guests in a welcome speech. Miss Sheldon is sitting on the right side of Mr. Walden.

course of years a direct link will be established between the workers of two concerns of about equal size. — Paavo Nurmi also made a short speech in which he referred to pleasant recollections from his running contests in England, and Mr. Purkiss spoke about Anglo-Finnish cooperation.

In the afternoon of the same day the team departed for Myllykoski. The following day was occupied by excursions in the mills and the vicinity. In the evening a welcome festivity had been arranged at the Seuratalo restaurant and club quarters.

On Wednesday the journey was continued to Kotka, where the Sunila sulphate mill was inspected. At Kotka the team was invited to luncheon by the Enso-Gutzeit company. After some excursions among the islands and visits to the sawmill of Enso-Gutzeit concern, the team returned to Myllykoski in the evening.

The main events took place on Thursday, June 10th. At a luncheon party a welcome speech was made by Mr. Walden on behalf of the United Paper Mills, Mr. Walden's address was as follows: —

On behalf of my Board of Directors I have the pleasure of wishing our far-away guests, Colonel Sheldon and his men, heartily welcome to this luncheon. I am also pleased to see on my left Mr. Thomas, personal representative of the British Minister in Finland. At the same time may I welcome Mr. Purkiss of Price & Pierce Ltd. and other representatives of the same firm, the General Manager of Kansallis-Osake-Pankki, Mr. Virkkunen, many leading men of the industries of the Kymi river valley and high officials of the various organizations of the Finnish industries, as well as the honourable representatives of the local civil and military administrations. I am especially glad to see amongst our guests Mr. Paavo Nurmi, better known as the »Flying Finn».

We have gathered here today to attend the sports contest between the teams of Albert E. Reed & Company and their subsidiary mills and of the United Paper Mills. These are the second contests between our companies, but the first ones to take place in Finland. The event as such is quite unique and a most visible testimony of the deep interest in our country that is to be found in England. Especially it is a token of the great attention shown by Colonel Sheldon and his firm, Albert E. Reed & Company, towards us. From old we know Colonel Sheldon to be a close friend of our country, but it is not until now that we have the pleasure of seeing him for the first time over here. Everyone here present knows of the fine reception our sports team was given by the Albert E. Reed & Company when visiting England last autumn. We in our turn will now try to do our very best to prove our gratitude and to show our English guests part of our country and acquaint them with our people and our ways of living.

The Minister of Education, Mr. Heljas who is unable to be with us due to Government obligations, has sent his best greetings on this occasion, and has asked me to express how pleased he is that this visit has now materialized. He sends best wishes for the success of the whole trip and for the contests ahead.

Gentlemen, when wishing you all welcome here today I suggest that we all honour our English guests by drinking a toast to Colonel C. D. Sheldon.

In the afternoon the sports event commenced at the Myllykoski sports grounds. The sports events had previously drawn much attention and the preparations for the contests were carefully planned. The countryside was festively clad decorated with English and Finnish flags. There were about 4 000 spectators present and numerous guests. [Apart from



Start of the cross-country running.

Mr. Sheldon and his daughter and son, there were Mr. Thomas, the personal representative of the English Minister, the General Manager of Kansallis-Osake-Pankki, Mr. Virkkunen, Mr. Purkiss, Mr. Paavo Nurmi as well as many representatives of the industry. On the whole the occasion proved to be a pleasant sports festival. Work was suspended at the mills prior to the commencement of the games in order to enable all workmen to be present. The both teams marched from opposite sides of the grounds towards the middle. The National Anthems were sung, whereafter, a short opening address was delivered by Mr. J. W. Walden who stated: —

Our English guests, the sportsmen of Albert E. Reed & Company, I should like to wish you most heartily welcome to the contests between our two firms that will now follow. We still have a happy memory of the fine reception we were given last autumn in England and the exciting and fair competitions on Cobdown Ground. I hope that the contests ahead will be carried out in the same spirit, and that they, as well as all your trip will remain a pleasant memory for you.

I declare these competitions opened.

The Guests of Honour, the Managing Director of Albert E. Reed & Co., Ltd, Colonel Sheldon, Mr. Paavo Nurmi, etc. then greeted the sportsmen on the field.



An interesting situation.

The football match was perhaps the most exciting. In general it had been expected that this was the event in which the British had the greatest chances of scoring a victory. But after the long journey and the excursions after the arrival it seemed that the British team was perhaps not at its absolute best and as in addition it was rather unlucky on one or two occasions, the match ended 3-1 in Finnish favour after a good and interesting match, especially in the second half. The first half ended 0-0.

It was a festive moment when the football team of the Yhtyneet Paperitehtaat Osakeyhtiö, after they had received the grand challenge prize from Miss Sheldon, carried their Captain, V. Asikainen, in a golden chair from the ground. Next time the competition for the cup will take place in England.

The same handicaps apparently also affected the British participants in the running events. As regards the cross-country race, the bet had been in favour of the Finns, and on their own home track they were not to be beaten. The cross-country race was won by P. Lyytikkä in 31 min. 42.2 seconds, followed closely by J. Charlesworth in 31 min. 53.6 seconds.

Altogether the match was closer than many people had expected, and the Finnish team won by 35 points to 20.

The relay race, 440 + 880 + 880 yards + 1 mile was won by the Finnish team in 9 min. 45.2 seconds against 10 min. 02.0 seconds for the British team.

After the competition Mr. Paavo Nurmi handed the prizes, raised three cheers for the winner, for the English team, and for Mr. Walden, who had included cross country running in the games, for which Mr. Nurmi thanked him on behalf of the competitors.

Whilst the running was in progress, 32 lady gymnasts performed pleasant and rhythmic gymnastics accompanied by music. Furthermore 112 boys exhibited varied and animated exercises.



Mrs. Walden handing the commemoration plaquette to Col. Sheldon.

After the events joint dinner was taken at the Society House and at 9.30 the dance commenced. During the dinner a commemoration medal was handed to every member of the British team by Mrs. Walden.

The Captain of the Yhtyneet team, Mr. Asikainen, also passed on the challenge prize they had won to the Captain of the English team, Mr. Larkin, so that the Finns could compete for it next year in England.

The morning of Friday, June 11th was occupied by an excursion to the Kymmene Mills, a tour of the Kuusankoski and Voikka Mills and luncheon party given by the Kymmene Company. A great event was the extensive air-cruise over the thousands of lakes of the internal water system of Southern Finland. In the afternoon the team returned to Myllykoski for joint dinner.

On Saturday, June 12th, after an early breakfast the team departed for Valkeakoski by motor car, passing the beautiful Mankala rapids on the route, the Vierumäki Sports Institute, and the Aulanko Tourist hotel, near Hämeenlinna, where dinner was enjoyed. After an interesting tour through beautiful country, Valkeakoski was reached late in the evening. The programme at Valkeakoski included international athletics. Details of this and of the subsequent programme of the visit will be given in our next issue.



The Captain of the Yhtyneet team passing on the challenge prize to the Captain of the English team.

gement of this firm till 1926, when he became a director of the A. Ahlström O.Y.

Both in the central organisations of the wood-working industries and in public life Mr. Gartz has been a prominent figure. He is a member of the Board of the Central Association of Finnish Woodworking Industries, of the Board of Administration of the Finnish Paper Mills' Association and of the Boards of its different departments. He is also on the Board of the Central Federation of Employers since 1937 and was its Chairman in 1937—1941, and its Vice Chairman in 1942—1945. Since 1933 he is a member of the Board of Administration of the Employers Federation of Finnish Woodworking Industries and in 1942—1945 was its Chairman. He is also on the boards of the two departments of this organisation.

In the years 1944—1946 Mr. Gartz was Minister of Trade and Industry and in this capacity made a highly appreciated contribution to Finland's economic recovery at a most critical time.

Both as a lawyer, industrial leader and a man of public affairs, Mr. Gartz has made great achievements. He is in possession of the most extensive knowledge of the industries of this country and thanks to this knowledge, he has been able to transact a series of commercial agreements of the greatest benefit for his country.

In the field of Scandinavian paper- and pulp cooperation, Mr. Gartz has for many years held a central position. As Chairman of the Scannews his impartiality and the interest he took in promoting smooth cooperation gained him the appreciation and confidence of all parties concerned.

\*

On June 17th Mr. Carl Johan Ehrnrooth, celebrates his fiftieth birthday.

After having graduated in Law at the University of Helsingfors, Mr. Ehrnrooth until 1945 had a legal

practise in Helsingfors. But at the same time he had extensive interests in the industrial field and was a member of the Boards of several industrial enterprises. Since 1936 he is a member of the Board of the Kymmene company and since 1945 its Chairman as also of the Boards of the A.B. J. W. Enqvist O.Y. and Mahogany Oy. He is vice Chairman of Board of the Lojo Kalkverk A.B., vice chairman of the Board of Administration and a member of the Boards of Departments I and II of the Finnish Paper Mills' Association. He is also a member of the Board of Administration of the Central Federation of Finnish Employers, of the Board of the Finnish Wood Pulp Union, of the Mutual Accident Insurance Company of the Industries, of the Industrial Fire Insurance Company, of Aero Oy. and of Finnish Chemicals Oy.

Mr. Ehrnrooth possesses a thorough knowledge and wide experience of the different branches of industrial activity in this country. His work and decisions have always been characterised by mature sobriety, and he therefore enjoys the greatest appreciation and confidence in wide circles for this quiet and well-balanced manner of tackling the problems.

\*

On June 23rd Mr. Aatto Maljanen, director of the Metsänomistajain Metsäkeskus Oy., celebrates his 60th birthday.

After completing school in his home town Kotka, Mr. Maljanen undertook extensive journeys of study to England, Germany and U.S.A. In the years 1905—1912 he was Chief Accountant and Cashier of the Halla Ab., after which he took a position as clerk with the Hood Rubber Co. in U.S.A. On his return he held positions with one or two industrial concerns till in 1922 he joined the Metsänomistajain Metsäkeskus Oy. of which he became a director and member of the board. Mr. Maljanen enjoys a widespread reputation as an expert on his work and as a most attractive personality.

Principal Exports Jan—April 1948.

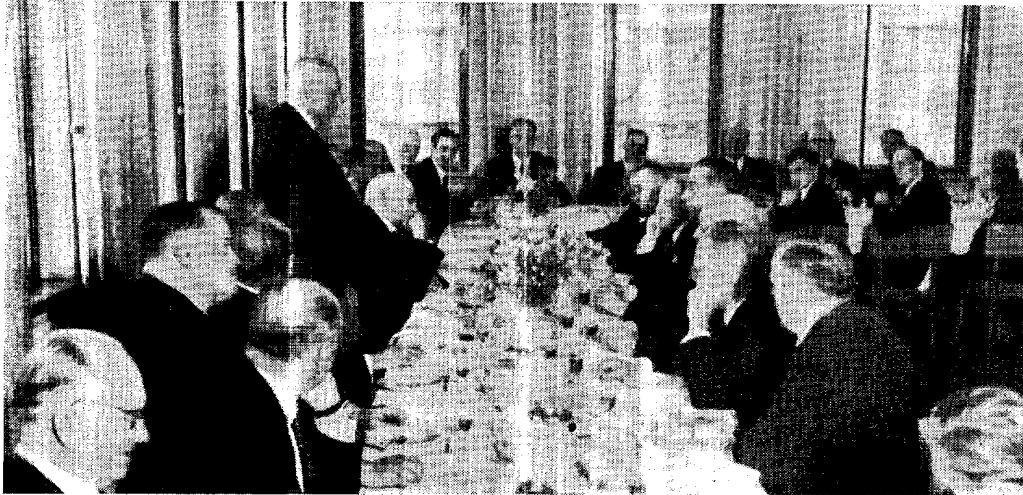
Custom-House Board Preliminary Returns.

Month	Sawn Timber All Kinds 1000 standards		Un-sawn Timber All Kinds (except fuel) 1000 m <sup>3</sup>		Profabr. houses tons		Plywood m <sup>3</sup>		Spools and Bobbins tons		Paper tons		Chemical Pulp tons dry weight		Mechanical Pulp tons dry weight		Boards tons		
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	
January	16	10	30	35	7 972	6 077	8 196	9 492	68	164	24 094	23 848	30 063	48 826	4 075	1 352	7 891	5 921	
February	5	10	15	4	8 393	11 641	6 523	14 130	52	365	9 300	32 121	18 333	54 105	1 163	3 267	2 675	8 021	
March	5	11	—	1	11 542	10 894	1 315	8 594	0	194	9 919	21 692	2 972	51 328	—	2 093	812	8 230	
April	4	7	1	0	10 159	21 324	10 477	13 298	212	394	24 520	45 207	21 078	73 791	142	9 541	8 159	8 628	
Jan.-April	30	38	46	40	38 066	49 936	26 511	45 514	332	1 117	67 833	122 875	72 446	228 050	5 380	16 253	19 537	30 792	
Reparat.-deliveries	15	18	18	70	1 451	2 491	6 823	7 741	270	40	5 134	4 185	24 524	24 602	5 314	6 302	3 303	3 236	
Total																			
Jan.-April	45	56	64	110	39 517	52 427	33 334	53 255	602	1 157	72 967	127 060	96 970	252 652	10 694	22 555	22 840	34 028	

Helsingfors 1948, Frenckellska Tryckeri Aktiebolaget.



## COLONEL FAVRE HONOURED.



Colonel Favre speaking at the dinner.

Colonel V. Favre, who on June 9th celebrated his 80th birthday, was honoured by the Finnish Wood Pulp Union and the Finnish Board Mills' Association at a dinner held the same day. As known Col. Favre five years ago left his position as managing director of

the Finnish Wood Pulp and Board Union a post that he held with the greatest distinction during forty years. In several speeches the representatives of the mechanical wood pulp and board industries extended him their great appreciation and hearty congratulations.

### Personal Items.

On June 9th, Col. Victor Favre of Helsingfors celebrates his 80th birthday.

Five years ago Col. Favre left his position as managing director of the of Finnish Wood Pulp and Board Union after 40 years of highly appreciated service. After graduating from the Military Academy in 1889 Col. Favre was in the military service till 1900 when he entered industry. Already in 1903 he joined the Finnish Wood Pulp and Board Union and in 1906 he became its managing director, a post which he held with the greatest distinction till in 1943 he retired to private life.

It rested largely on Col Favre to find outlets for the steadily rising production of the Finnish mechanical pulp and board industries in recent decades. He handled this task with quiet assurance in good and bad times and the celebration of which he was the centre on his retirement on the part of the industries and foreign buyers alike bear witness of the appreciation he had earned for himself.

When he in full possession of his physical and mental vitality reaches the high age of 80 years the entire woodworking industry joins in extending to him its hearty congratulations.

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On June 10th, Mr. Harry Pickering, Director of the well-known timber agency firm of James Webster & Bro. of Liverpool celebrates his 70th birthdate.

Mr. Pickering is known and appreciated in extensive timber circles as a skilled and experienced timberman. In January of this year he had been in his special trade, which comprises boxboards, staves and small goods generally, for no less than 54 years. The main part of this work was carried out in the service of the firm of which he is now a director. The firm was founded in 1862 and is the oldest boxboard agency in Great Britain. It introduced the first parcels of Scandinavian boxboards on the British market in the 1860'ies. — It was at the initiative of Mr. Pickering that the British Boxboard Agents Association was formed.

Mr. Pickering has visited Finland frequently, last time in 1947, and he has in this country a great number of friends and acquaintances who will be certain to remember him on the day of celebration.

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On June 9th Mr. Åke Gartz, well-known director of the A. Ahlström O.Y. celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of his birth.

In the economic life of Finland, and more particularly in her woodworking industries, Mr. Gartz is a person of great prominence. After immatriculating at the Helsinki University he became a Bachelor of Science in 1909 and graduated in Law in 1914. Subsequently he studied commercial law at Heidelberg and had a legal practice. But already in 1921 he was appointed a member of the Board of the G. A. Serlachius O.Y., and took an active part in the mana-