District Promising for Permanent Timber Industr

"Sustained Yield" Policy to keep District Forests Long Productive

While other areas of Canada and the United States are starting to practice the "sustained yield" method of forestry to rebuild areas logged over in the last 30 or more years, the Prince Rupert forestry district, which comprises no inconsiderable part of the continent's woodland wealth, is embarking on that policy while the greater part of its resources are yet untouched.

Thus, the producers of timber, who undoubtedly multiply within the next decade, can set up their camps and mills with certainty that while they are cutting trees down, provision is being made by the Department of Lands and Forests to make certain that an organized re-growth program is under way at the same time.

This government "sustained yield" policy, which was announced this year by Lands and Forests Minister, E. T. Kenney, was one of the factors which influenced the Celanese Corporation of America to build a $15,000,000 pulp mill on Watson Island, nine miles from Prince Rupert. This mill, when completed, will have a capacity of 250 tons of pulp daily, using 250,000 board feet of timber in the process.

To supply the mill, the company has leased 17,000 acres of forest land on the Naas and Skeena watersheds and in the Portland Canal region.

This acreage is among the fastest-growing of any in the forestry district, which spreads over almost 40,000,000 acres of central British Columbia. Within that district spread over 5,200,000 accessible acres stand 42,000,000 board feet of merchantable lumber which includes all varieties found in the coastal and interior regions of British Columbia.

How little of this tremendous wealth has been exploited is indicated by the fact that the estimated amount of sawlog timber has been reduced by less than two billion feet in the last 10 years.

The number of logging and mill operations in the district seem few compared with the resources at hand and the situation is one which, it would seem in this era of housing and lumber shortages, presents an opportunity for profitable development.

The amount by which timber resources in the Prince Rupert forestry district have been reduced in the last decade is indicated by the following figures given in board feet:

Merchantable timber standing in 1945—47,032,000,000. In 1936—48,798,800,000

Accessible timber - covered acreage, 1945—5,265,000. In 1936—5,276,000.

Thus, the amount of timber cut in that recent 10-year period amounted to less than two billion board feet, while the reduction in logged area was only 11,000 acres.

The proportion of varieties of timber of commercial importance are given below in percentages:

Fir 2%, Red Cedar 16%, Hemlock 32%, Spruce 26%, Balsam 16%, Lodgepole pine 6%, Yellow cedar 2%.

Since the Watson Island pulp mill is reported to be able to use only hemlock, spruce and balsam, these varieties will be reduced fairly rapidly on the acreage held by the company, although other varieties, which can be marketed for lumber, likely will be logged at the same time.

HEMLOCK IS IMPORTANT

Important in this district both from the standpoint of quality and commercial quantity, is hemlock, which is said to be superior to the hemlock growing in other parts of the province. The exceptionally fine grain and soundness of the hemlock found in the Terrace district has won the approval of the lumber trade.

Long neglected cottonwood, which abounds in the Skeena and Naas valleys has at last come into its own, and is being shipped in fair quantity to Vancouver for the plywood industry. A 900,000-foot Davis raft was shipped this spring from a tidewater booming ground at Bilmor.

It is expected that this year's cottonwood scale may exceed that of last year, when 999,000 board feet were shipped out.

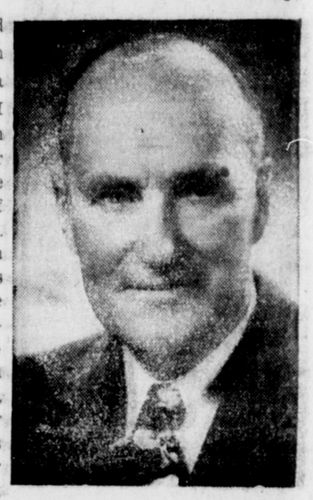
An encroachment on the sovereignty of red cedar in the pole and piling industry has been under way during the last couple of years. United States interests have shown a desire to test lodgepole pine, hemlock and fir for poles and pilings. Previously pole and piling production was exclusively red cedar.

High lumber prices have induced an increase in the number of sawmills in the district, until they now number over 120 with a maximum output approaching 1,000,000 board feet daily. This maximum, however, has not yet been reached. Most of the mills, over 100 are in the interior, many of them "small shows," some of which are portable mills.

Logging operations on the coast include three big camps on the Queen Charlotte Islands which produce spruce, hemlock and cedar which is transported by raft to mills in the south. Logging in the interior is mainly carried on in conjunction with sawmill operations, often managed by the same person.

While Prince Rupert is largely built on rocks and muskeg, it has been able to develop a surprising amount of park facilities which gives an attractive appearance to the city.

A Message from Mr. Kenney



I WOULD like to extend to your organization sincere good wishes for a very successful meeting. I believe that the Northern and Central sections of our Province are on the threshold of a period of unparalleled development. You have no doubt read in the Press of the discussions that have been taking place recently with a view to developing a celanese industry near Prince Rupert. With our extensive forest areas, excellent potential power sites, and the advantages afforded by tide - water mills, I think we may look forward to other, similar industries investigating the possibilities of this portion of our Province in the near future.

In addition to our forest resources, we are the fortunate posessors of large areas of agricultural land, petroleum and natural gas fields of considerable promise, and tremendous deposits of coal and minerals.

Truly there is ample justification for the phrase "Business is moving to B.C." The part that Boards of Trade and kindred organizations can play in accelerating that movement is an inspiring and vital one and I trust that every success will attend your efforts.

Victoria, B.C.,
June 19, 1947.

E. T. KENNEY,
Minister of Lands and Forests.

$15,000,000 PULP MILL

Great Project, Which Marks Turning Point in Prince Rupert's Economy, Under Way

Prince Rupert was electrified by a great announcement on March 12 of this year. It was the official news that the Celanese Corporation of America had chosen Watson Island, Port Edward, eight miles from Prince Rupert, as the site for a $15,000,000 cellulose pulp mill. On May 19, George Schneider, New York, vice-president and technical director of the Celanese Corporation, visited Prince Rupert and announced that a start on construction might be expected within two months. On July 5, announcement was made that British Columbia Bridge & Dredging Co., which did heavy war construction work at Prince Rupert had been awarded the contract for a $400,000 rock excavation job on the mill site. Heavy machinery soon started rolling to Port Edward and now the work on the great plant which will transform the commercial, economic and business life of Prince Rupert is getting under way. Two years has been stated as the time which will be required to get construction completed and the great plant in operation.

Although the plant will be located at Watson Island, eight miles from the city and connected to Prince Rupert by rail, water and highway, Prince Rupert will actually be the head quarters and it will be here that the [illegible] will live. "For all [illegible] poses," said D. [illegible] special consulting [illegible] company, the mill [will] in Prince Rupert for [illegible]

(Continued on [illegible])

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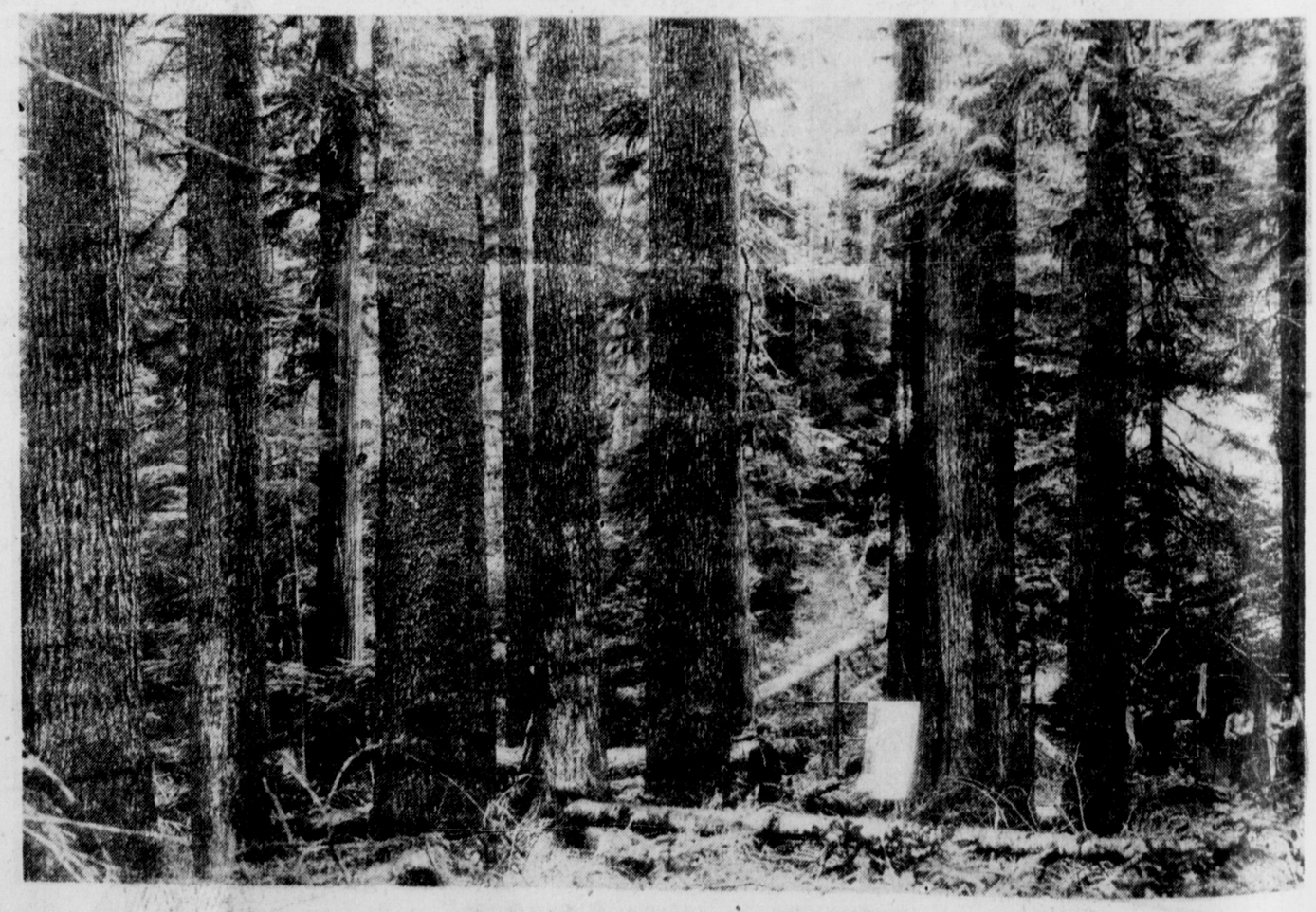
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Our Forests Require...

...thorough protection

...sustained yield management

...maximum utilization



British Columbia Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

C. D. ORCHARD,
Deputy Minister of Forests

HON. E. T. KENNEY,
Minister, Department of Lands and Forests