

By George McManus



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BRINGING UP FATHER



Prince Rupert District Compared Favorably with Rest of Province in Lumber Production Year 1921

The report of the provincial government forestry department for the year 1921 shows that 25 sawmills operated in the Prince Rupert district during the year with an estimated production of 456,000 feet daily and that 18 plants, with an estimated capacity of 550,000 feet daily, were shut down. There were two small shingle mills operating in the district during the period, but the largest ones here and at Swanson Bay were closed down. Prince Rupert showed the greatest proportion of closed down mills with but one exception—Cariboo—where 10 mills operated and 12 were closed.

There was a decrease in production during the year as compared with 1920, which was general in the province. The value of production in 1921 for the entire province was \$84,970,000, as compared with \$82,628,000 for 1920. Almost every item showed a decrease, and it was especially noted in lumber, pulp, paper and shingles. This is accounted for chiefly on account of falling prices, although there were reductions of quantities in most cases. It was encouraging to note that, excepting for 1919 and 1920, years of inflated prices, the total value was higher than any preceding year.

Decrass Was General.

In the year there were 174,265 thousand board feet of timber cut in the district as against 202,650 thousand board feet in 1920. There has been a general belief that this district was the only one that had a decrease of lumber production in 1921, but this was by no means the case. There was only one district, namely Vancouver Island, which showed an increased lumber production in 1921 over 1920. The production decreases in Cranbrook, Prince George, Kamloops, Nelson, Vernon and Vancouver districts were proportionate to Prince Rupert, while one district, Williams Lake, showed a decrease of something over two-thirds of the 1920 production. There is a certain amount of satisfaction in knowing that this district, in suffering a production loss, was not exceptional. The total production for the province in the year was 4,790,017 thousand board feet, as against the 1920 total of 2,046,468 thousand board feet. In quantity production Prince Rupert district stood third in the province, Vancouver and Vancouver Island being the leaders.

The total cut of 174,265 thousand feet in this district in 1921 was divided among the different species of timber as follows: Douglas fir, 6490 thousand; red cedar, 32,988; spruce, 75,372; hemlock, 30,355; balsam, 14,003; jackpine, 41,620; cottonwood, 1037. This district led all others in the spruce and balsam cuts.

Fire Loss Low.

There was damage to the extent of \$3082 done in the district by forest fires during the year, the percentage being 3.2 of the damage in the whole province, a low record. The sum of \$692 was spent in fighting fires, 0.7 per cent. of the total cost of this purpose in the entire province.

The organization report of the department shows that the permanent force in the local office is the second largest in the province. The total personnel of the staff inside and out, is 47 members. At Vancouver there are 73; Nelson, 10; Cranbrook, 9, and Kamloops, 7.

Reports on reconnaissance work done by the department in the Kitimaat, Naas River and Masset Inlet areas during the year were as follows:

Kitimaat Area.

An investigation was made into the timber resources on crown land in the Kitimaat valley and subsidiary valleys tributary to it.

waters are east of the Coast range of mountains and the river itself breaks through the Coast range on its way to the sea. The timber stands, therefore, are in two distinct types: (a) The Coast type; and (b) the Interior type, east of where the river breaks through the Coast range. All of the main bodies of commercial timber on the Coast side of the range were cruised during the past summer and a start was made in the Interior region. The area covered in the upper valley above Ayashan contained 20,000 acres lying on the west side of the Naas River between the Quintehl River and the Kinskooh River.

The total amount of timber found during this year's work on the Naas River was 311,000,000 feet, being 32 per cent. spruce, 13 per cent. balsam, 50 per cent. hemlock, and the remaining 5 per cent. lodge-pole pine and cedar. Adverse weather conditions made it impossible to complete the reconnaissance during the season.

Masset Inlet Area.

During the past summer an area of 32,000 acres lying north and east of Massett Inlet, on Queen Charlotte Islands, was investigated. Of this area less than 8000 acres were found to be covered with a stand of merchantable timber. The remainder of the area is covered with a scrub stand of defective spruce and hemlock and a very large percentage of the area is muskeg. A stand of 67,000,000 feet was found on the merchantable area, 55 per cent. of which was cedar, 30 per cent. balsam, and 15 per cent. spruce.

The country in general is rolling, with small creeks flowing out of muskies and into Massett Inlet. Along the streams there is usually a narrow strip of merchantable timber. Farther back the land is muskeg and the ridges have been burned leaving a scrub stand of timber unfit for commercial use.

Growth Studies.

Studies for forest growth were undertaken during the past summer in the Kitimaat Valley in connection with the cruising work which was being carried on. It was proposed to find out, if possible, if the annual growth in this valley was sufficient to supply continuously the raw material for a pulp mill, and if so, the size of mill which the increment would supply.

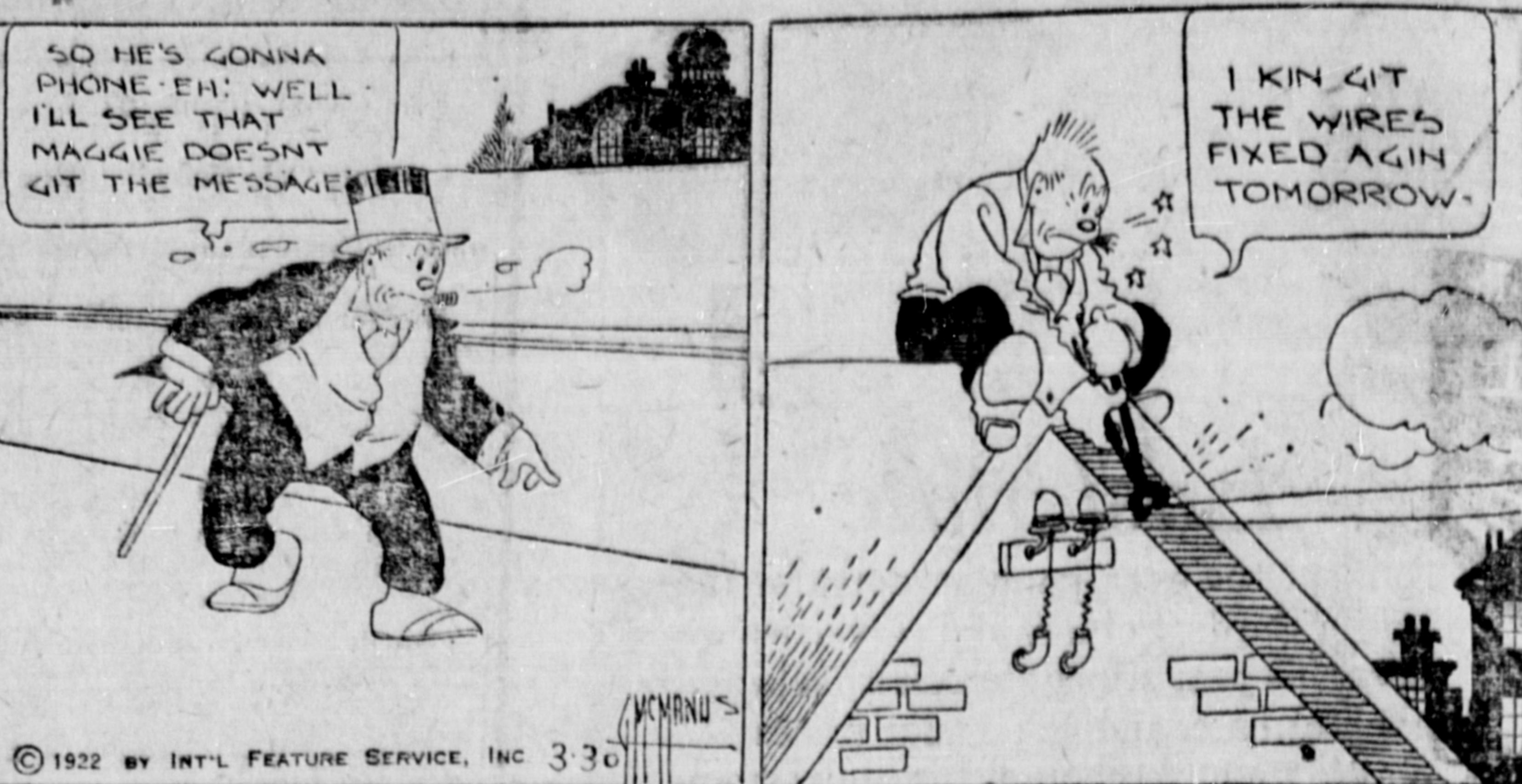
For the purpose of study the following timber types were recognized: River-bottom, low bench, side-hill and upper bench.

FISHING VESSEL IS MULCTED WITH FINE \$206.80 KETCHIKAN

KETCHIKAN, April 6.—In a decision handed down by Judge T. M. Reed of the United States district court, copies of which have been received here by Chas. H. Cosgrove, attorney for Alexander Brindle, the court held for Brindle against the boat Eagle and Steve Selig its owner in the sum of \$2,066.80. The court holds that the collision between the boats was due to negligence on the part of the skipper of the Eagle which collided with Brindle's boat the Wildwood. The case was heard at the last session of court in Ketchikan, occupying several days to put in the evidence.

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