

# Northern British Columbia Has Vast Wealth In Its Great Forests

## Timber, One of Greatest Natural Resources Here Big Development Due

*Lumbering Is Gradually Becoming One of Important Industries and Is Capable of Great Expansion In Many Ways*

Lumbering is gradually becoming one of the most important industries in Prince Rupert and district and, as time goes on, it will, no doubt, become of increasing importance. The country contiguous to the city has vast resources of timber, the total stand being estimated at some 38,000,000,000 board feet of milling timber with about 3,500,000,000 additional feet of smaller material for pulpwood, piles, ties and other products. There are already upwards of forty sawmills established in the district and two pulp and paper mills. The industry throughout the continent is in the doldrums just now and, naturally, the large majority of the mills hereabouts are silent.

With the timber areas in the older sections of the province gradually becoming depleted, this new district, as yet hardly touched, will take its place as a leading timber producing section. The movement is gradually coming in this direction. Prior to 1916, the timber wealth of Northern and Central British Columbia had been little exploited, the only mills then being at Georgetown and Terrace. Now there are the forty mills, ranging in capacity from 3,000 to 100,000 feet per day.

### Two Main Areas

The district, as far as timbering is concerned, is divided into two main areas, the interior and the coast. On the coast, pulp and paper manufacturing and general lumber production are the most important pursuits. In the interior, although there are several sawmills there, the cutting of ties and poles up to the present time has been the main timbering occupation, as many as 1000 men being engaged in this work on some occasions although, unfortunately, there is nothing like that number at the present time. Olof Hanson M.P. of Prince Rupert for nearly twenty years has been the main factor in this interior business.

There are two large pulp and paper mills established in Prince Rupert district. The Pacific Mills at Ocean Falls is one of the largest and most up-to-date paper plants in the world. It produces 450 tons of pulp and paper a day and a sawmill, which is also run there, has an output of 400,000 feet. The old Whalen mill at Swanson Bay is the oldest pulp mill on this coast but has been the victim of mismanagement and for years has not turned a wheel although, originally, it was a very successful producer. It is very improbable that the old Swanson Bay pulp mill will ever resume operations. One of the most serious handicaps is that its water supply is very limited and water is one of the prime requisites in the modern pulp mill.

That the pulp and paper milling industry in this district is merely in its infancy seems quite evident. The present time sees important interests seriously considering the possibilities of establishing pulp and paper mills at Prince Rupert, Prince George and the Queen Charlotte Islands. While Prince Rupert, with its power, water, sea transportation and other advantages, will probably see the first development along this line, the other points will undoubtedly have such industries in time after economic conditions have become so adjusted as to warrant them.

The heyday of the timber industry in Prince Rupert district was undoubtedly during the war years when the Sitka spruce on the Queen Charlotte Islands and elsewhere in the district was so much in demand. Since the war, the industry has had its ups and downs, prospering when economic conditions were good and suffering when things were otherwise. Owing to the world depression, the industry since its establishment has never been more quiet than it is today. Demands from all quarters have shrunk to the minimum and, throughout British Columbia, the industry is feeling the pinch.

The lumbering and timbering business here will doubtless recover, as quickly as anywhere. When conditions return to normal, mills will reopen and the industry may be expected to make even greater strides.

The lumber business here is but in its infancy and the field around about presents one of the greatest in the world.

Probably the most valuable of the woods in this district is the Sitka spruce. It produces high grade clears suitable for airplane manufacture and other purposes merchantable timber for export and the lower grades make excellent pulp timber.

Englemann spruce, which grows mostly on the mainland, is useful for building material, for boxwood and also for pulp.

Western hemlock is a much superior wood to that of the east. The western hemlock can be given a finish equal to fir and is also useful for boxwood and, for ties, it excels all others.

Larch is an excellent box lumber and can also be ground into pulp.

Red cedar can be used for making shingles, posts, telegraph poles and good lumber. The yellow cedar is excellent for boat building and other purposes for it is very hard and fibrous.

A short distance inland is cottonwood in large quantities. It is useful for box wood and, as proven recently, for veneer manufacture. A veneer mill is another live possibility for this district.

All these timbers abound in large stands very close to Prince Rupert. Some day, and it may not be long, they will be developed on a large scale. Meantime, they stand as one of the greatest potential natural resources of Prince Rupert district.

## LOGS SHOW INCREASE

Despite universal depression in the industry, log production in Prince Rupert district for the first ten months of 1930 shows an increase of some thirty per cent over the same period in 1929. So far this year, log scaling in the district has totalled 122,069,506 board feet as against 90,408,585 board feet in the first ten months of 1929. In every month but February and October an increase has been shown this year over last. Following are scaling figures in the district month by month for this year and last:

|           | 1930        | 1929       |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| January   | 2,490,377   | 1,313,539  |
| February  | 1,291,206   | 3,544,189  |
| March     | 4,474,031   | 1,303,347  |
| April     | 6,788,042   | 6,286,498  |
| May       | 12,130,422  | 11,157,456 |
| June      | 18,677,859  | 12,983,529 |
| July      | 13,180,078  | 12,135,650 |
| August    | 27,332,486  | 10,238,394 |
| September | 26,570,633  | 17,622,079 |
| October   | 8,133,972   | 13,823,304 |
| Totals    | 122,069,106 | 90,408,585 |

## Minister Is Much Impressed With the City

Hon. D. M. Sutherland, Minister of National Defence, who was in the city recently spoke appreciatively of the beauty of the drive across Kalen Island and particularly the part at the farther side, which he said was most picturesque and should be used a great deal by tourists visiting the city.

The minister said he was much impressed with the city, its neat appearance, pretty gardens, well paved streets, and beautiful and commodious harbor.

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### Rupert Shipyards

In addition to the dry dock shipyard there are in Prince Rupert a number of smaller shipyards that build fishing boats, repair them and

do a general boat building and repair business. They give excellent service to the waterfront community and have prospects of developing into something much more pretentious than they are at present. The wonderful system of coastal

waterways served from the port insure that boating will always be one of the important recreations and in addition there will be a fleet of fishing boats and another fleet of work boats. All these will have to be constantly replenished or repaired.

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