

British Columbia



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FORESTRY -- PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Part Two of Two - by R.G. McKee, Deputy Minister of Forests
Talk to Annual Banquet, U.B.C. Forest Club February 18, 1965

In British Columbia, the concept of conservation, that is, sustained-yield forestry, was consolidated in the crucible of two Royal Commissions on Forestry, as I have already mentioned. The end result, which brings us up to the present, is some 40 Tree Farm Licences, or private working circles, and some 85 Public Sustained Yield Units.

As you know, the Tree Farm Licences are privately-managed sustained-yield units, and account for about 17% of the area. To encourage proper management, the carrot approach was used; viz., the Crown land was thrown in with the alienated timber and taxes reduced, etc., provided the total was managed on sustained yield. I must say that, with a bit of Forest Service supervision, the industry is now doing a far better job of reforestation, picking up sticks, etc., than we are able to get done on the public working circles.

So far, in the Public Sustained Yield Units, we have laid the foundation, by a proper inventory, division into manageably-sized units, and regulation of cut. In so doing, the overcutting of our Coast Forests ceased. As proof, 83% of the entire log scale of the Province came from the Coast in 1945, whereas, last year, the percentage was only 53%. In other words, the Coast loggers were forced by regulation to move into the Interior, and thence into conservation for the future. However, in the Coast public working circles, because it was not economic to pick up sticks, some 20 to 40 cords of small

wood were left. After all, if the existing pulp mills could get all the pulp logs they wanted for \$10.00 per thousand less than the cost of production, and chips at an even cheaper rate, why bother to conserve the junk material, which only amounted to from 10% to 20% of the volume anyway?

In the Interior, the situation was even worse. Ever since I can remember, the sawmills have wasted up to 50% of the volume of logs they received at the mill, and the logger left up to 50% of the wood fibre in the bush. Who cared? Mother Nature gave it to us for nothing and we lived high on the hog with the 25% we loaded in the box car.

Fortunately, the situation changed recently because of the ever-growing world need for kraft pulp, and we superimposed a pulp economy on the sawlog economy by guaranteeing the pulp mill all the wood from several working circles which was unsuitable for sawmills; i.e., Pulp Harvesting Areas, about which you have heard so much lately. So, now we have pulp mill applications running out of our ears, and conservation of our forests, or full utilization, is very close to reality. Even our despised Cinderella tree, Lodgepole pine, has come into its own, and both the pulp mills and the sawmills are fighting for it.

In due course, when the smoke of battle clears away, the sawmills of the Interior will help the pulp mills, and vice versa, as they are now doing on the Coast, where 47% of the wood fibre used in many of the pulp and paper mills comes from chips supplied by sawmills, thereby conserving for the future thousands of acres of mature timber.

The increased plant production on the Coast, and additional plants, is the very thing we need to force more conservation. In the past, this plant expansion has been taken care of by increased production of chips by the sawmills. However, under sustained yield, there can be little increase in sawmill capacity. Hence, in the last year, the lowly pulp log has jumped \$10.00 per thousand, and, in due course, the small wood price will be up far enough to be attractive to loggers in our public working circles. In accordance with recent public hearing testimony, a price of 25.4¢ per cubic foot now being offered in some areas is attractive to some loggers already.

In fact, the established licensees in the Public Sustained Yield Units are demanding the right to log the same small wood that the pulp mills want reserved for them. Hence, recently our Minister floated a trial balloon of forest policy at the Truck Loggers Convention, which in effect proposes to share the wealth between them on a percentage basis, which is the obvious solution.

In the Interior, the small portable mill is fast disappearing, and the larger integrated plants are hauling logs from 50 to 100 miles to their sawmills, and plywood or veneer plants, and paying for part, or all, of the hauling costs with their barkers and chippers. Thus, it is just a question of getting enough pulp mills scattered around the Province before the best utilization is made of our public forests.

What of the Future?

Already, some people are worried about there being too many pulp mills in B.C.; but I am not.

Remember that British Columbia has 60% of Canada's reserve supply of soft wood, and our timber stands are larger and of better quality. Hence, in this Province, the sawmills and the pulp mills can help one another to compete on the markets of the world far better than they can anywhere else in Canada.

In 1962, Canada supplied about 18% of the world's needs in wood pulp, and British Columbia only about 4% at that time. With the predictions of exploding population, what if we double, or even treble, our 1962 production? It seems fashionable these days to predict what's going to happen -- so, here, for what it is worth, is my own prediction. In 1962, our B.C. pulp mills produced some 2,400,000 tons of wood pulp. In 1964 (December 31st), the rated capacity of 14 pulp and paper mills in British Columbia was 3,500,000 tons. I predict that by 1970 the rated capacity will be at least 7,000,000 tons of wood pulp, which is roughly three times our 1962 production.

Can we afford such a drain on our forests, in addition to keeping the sawmills and plywood plants in full production? Remember that at least 30% of the necessary wood fibre for these pulp mills will come from sawmill and other waste, so that it should take an average of less than 140 cubic feet of round wood per ton of pulp, or, in all, a billion cubic feet of round wood for 7 million tons of pulp.

Keep in mind, also, that, on an annual cubic foot scale of one billion, 500 million cubic feet of logs, we are now supplying all the sawmills, all the plywood plants, and 15 pulp and paper mills in this Province. We should certainly be able to supply another 15 pulp mills, which will use an additional 500 million cubic feet of round wood. Combining the present scale with the predicted future cut, we would then be two-thirds of the way to the 1957 calculation of annual production of wood fibre in this Province of three billion cubic feet under full development.

Remember, further, that no company builds a pulp mill of rated capacity with the expectation of standing still. Recently, at the Truck Loggers annual meeting, we were warned about the speculative building of too many pulp mills, but a few weeks later the same company executives announced a 90 million-dollar addition to one of their plants, and plans for a new 60 million-dollar pulp mill elsewhere.

Not too long ago, the Forest Service did a re-calculation of the allowable cut of one Coast Public Sustained Yield Unit to pulp standards of utilization, and the annual volume came from the I.B.M. machine as double.

Again, I say, "What of the future?" The answer is that it is in your hands, provided the Governments of Canada and British Columbia plough back more of the forest capital dollars in order to allow you to practise intensive forestry. I am indeed hopeful that, with the foundation that has now been laid, the grass roots pressures will continue to develop. The 1965-66 estimates now before the Legislature are mute testimony of that pressure, and I am indeed pleased that they contain funds for the establishment of the first of five new Forest Districts which were recommended by the late Commissioner Sloan in 1945, and again in 1956. Without a reduction in the size of Forest Districts and of Ranger Districts, increased funds for protection, access roads, reforestation, and silvicultural treatments, there can never be intensive forestry in British Columbia, on the Public Sustained Yield Units.

When one can quote such statistics as that a billion dollars will be spent in British Columbia in the next five years in pulp mills and complementary logging equipment, and that the 5% sales tax alone will produce some 35 million dollars for the Provincial Treasury, they supply a fair argument in themselves that more money should be spent on forestry. When the pulp mills and the sawmills start crowding one another for the accessible timber left by forest fires and pests, your future as foresters is assured in this wonderful Province of ours.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Baikie, Wallace. 1984. Rolling with the times. Campbell River Museum and Archives, 1235 Island Highway, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 2C7 \$20.00

Clyne, J.V. 1985. Jack of all trades: memories of a busy life. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto. 312 p. \$24.95

Corley-Smith, Peter. 1985. 10,000 Hours - reminiscences of a helicopter bush pilot. Sono Nis Press, Victoria. 245 p. \$18.95

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FORESTER RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

At the Tenth British Columbia Soil Science Workshop held from February 20 - 21, 1986 at the University of British Columbia FHABC member Tom Wright was presented with an award and several mementoes of his work on the Franklin River operation of Bloedel, Stewart, and Welch, southeast of Port Alberni.

Following some intense slash burns which were carried out on the area in 1938 (the year of the Sayward fire) Tom Wright was employed by the company in 1941 to investigate the effects of the fires on the soils of the area. Tom kept very detailed notes on the location of the plots he established, drew accurate maps of the distribution of remaining logging debris, took careful photographs, and placed a large rock on the stump nearest the plot centre to permit future relocation of the plot. A railroad spike was also put in the ground at the actual plot centre.

Now, some 44 years later, UBC graduate student Mike Curran has relocated the plots and is studying the long-term effects of these fires by resampling the soil and vegetation to assess soil and foliar nutrients as well as looking at the height and diameter of the dominant trees on each plot. Without Tom's meticulous work the current study would not have been possible. Accordingly, at a ceremony at the close of the workshop, Tom was presented with the "Rock on Stump" award (a small trophy) by Mike Curran; his original field notebooks by Grant Ainscough, MacMillan-Bloedel's Chief Forester; and a bound volume of his report by Bill Beese, a forest ecologist with MacMillan-Bloedel in Nanaimo.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR THE VANCOUVER SYMPOSIUM

The preliminary program for the Forest History Society symposium in Vancouver, which will be held just before the Society's annual meeting in October of 1986, has been recently published. This is the first time that the Forest History Society has held an annual meeting outside of the United States. All FHABC members are extended an invitation to attend the events as well as the conference itself.

Forests and the 49th Parallel: Perspectives on Canadian-American Forest and Conservation History October 8 - 11, 1986

Wednesday October 8th

Registration: Hotel Georgia

Session I. A Role for Canadian Studies in the Binational Dialogue

Chair: Marion Salinger (Canadian Studies, Duke University)

Graeme Wynn (Department of Geography, U.B.C.), "The History of the Industry: Lines of Development."

Paul Bienvenu (Howard Bienvenu Company), "Problems and Problem Solving: Development and Modernization in Quebec."

James Yoho (School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Duke University), "Problems and Problem Solving II, Beyond Bilateral Trade: Canada and the U.S. in the International Market."

Gerald R. Stairs (California State University, Chico), "The Future as History: Cooperation Between Government, Industry, and the Academy."

Thursday October 9th

Session II. Entrepreneurs, Forests, and Conservation

Robin Winks (Department of History, Yale University), "Frederick Billings: Railway Magnate-Conservationist."

Thomas Roach (Ottawa) and Richard Judd (Department of History, University of Maine), "F.J.D. Barnjum: Conservationist or Opportunist?"

Charles Twining (Department of History, Northland College, Wisconsin), "George Long and the Western Forestry and Conservation Association."

Session III. Resource Management in the Great Lakes Basin

Jamie Benidickson (Royal Commission on Economic Union, Ottawa), "Water Resource Management and the Forest Industries of the Lake of the Woods District, 1880 to 1930."

Chris Gosselin and Roger Suffling (School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo), "Forest Policy in Ontario since 1898: A Cautionary Tale."

Session IV. Selling Eastern Canadian Wood in the Late Nineteenth Century

John Keyes (Department of History, Laval University), "The Trade in Timber from Quebec, 1850 - 1914."

Chris Curtis (Department of History, Carleton University), "Selling Canadian Lumber in the United States, 1850 to 1900: The Experiences of the Mossom Boyd Company."

Session V. The Wood Trade of the Pacific Northwest

Thomas Waggener (Centre for International Trade in Forest Products, University of Washington), "Pacific Northwest Trade Patterns and U.S.-Canadian Relationships."

Thomas R. Cox (Department of History, San Diego State University), "The North American-Japan Timber Trade: Canadian and U.S. Approaches."

Friday October 10th

Session VI. The Development and Impact of Forest Industries in Northeastern America

Beatrice Craig (Department of History, University of Ottawa), "The Socio-economic Impact of Lumbering on an Already Established Agricultural Settlement: The St. John Valley (Maine/New Brunswick) in the Early Nineteenth Century."

James K. Hiller (Department of History, Memorial University), "Developing the Forests of Newfoundland: I.P.P., Corner Brook, and the Humber River Watershed, 1890 to 1938."

Session VII. Forest Policy, the Market, and Industrial Stability in the Pacific Northwest

William G. Robbins (Department of History, Oregon State University), "The Burden They Bear: Forestry, the Market Economy and Community Stability."

Mary McRoberts (Department of History, University of Victoria), "British Columbia Forest Service Dictates and Timber Resource Monopoly: The Disruptive Supply-side Force in the Williams Lake District Lumber Economy."

Session VIII. Transborder Parks

Gerald Killan (Department of History, King's College, University of Western Ontario), "Saving Quetico-Superior: The Ontario Perspective 1927-1960."

David Backes (Department of Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin, Madison), "Physical and Perceptual Boundaries and Their Role in Social-Environmental Relationships in Quetico-Superior."

Session IX. Research Possibilities

Gabrielle Blais (Public Archives of Canada), "Sources for the Study of Canadian-American Relations in the Forest Industry."

Panel discussion of the need for archival collection of forest history records and of research opportunities. Participants: George Brandak (University of British Columbia, Special Collections); Sue Baptie (Vancouver City Archives); and others to be announced.

Saturday October 11th

Session X. Over Another Border: 54° 40' and Beyond

Conner Sorensen (University of Alaska, Juneau), "The CCC in Alaska."

Lawrence Rakestraw (Department of History, Michigan Technological University) "B. Franklin Heintzelman, Alaskan Forester."

Session XI. Studies in Forest Technology and Its Diffusion

Robert Griffin (British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria), "Mill Technology at Chemainus, 1924-1980."

Roger Hayter (Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University),
"Technological Transfer: Evaluation and Purchasing of Technology in the
British Columbia Forest Industry."

David Bengston, Hans Gregersen, John Haygreen (College of Forestry, University
of Minnesota), "The International Diffusion and Economic Impact of
Structural Particleboard."

In addition, William Ruckelshaus will be the speaker at the conference
luncheon on Thursday October 9th and Herb Winer will speak at the banquet on
Friday October 10th.

For those wishing more information on the symposium please contact
Dr. Graeme Wynn of the Department of Geography, U.B.C. at # 217 - 1984 West
Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5.

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The Forest History Society added five new people to its Board of Directors
at the November 2nd annual meeting in Austin, Texas. One of these includes
Pit Desjardins, a director and consultant of Weldwood of Canada. He was
Vice-Chairman of the Weldwood Board of Directors until his retirement in
1984. He began his career in the forest products industry in 1946 with
Western Plywood Company, Ltd., a predecessor of Weldwood. He has wide
experience in all phases of the industry, both in western and eastern Canada.

The above two items were reprinted from the Winter 1985 issue (Volume 8,
Number 4) of "The Cruiser" published by the Forest History Society, Durham,
North Carolina.

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This newsletter is the official organ of the Forest History Association of
British Columbia and is distributed thrice yearly at no charge to members of
the Association, libraries, and to certain institutions. Items on forest
history topics, descriptions of current projects, requests for information,
book reviews, letters, comments, and suggestions are welcome. Please address
all correspondence including changes of address to the Editor: John Parminter,
c/o Protection Branch, Ministry of Forests, 1450 Government Street, Victoria,
B.C. V8W 3E7.

Membership in the Association is \$5.00 yearly. Should you wish to join or
obtain further information please write to the Treasurer: Mr. Edo Nyland,
8793 Forest Park Drive, Sidney, B.C. V8L 4E8

Jewish Historical Society Leonard Frank Display

When this giant of Canadian photographers passed away February 23, 1944, the *Victoria Colonist*, in a rare editorial, said eloquently what his contemporaries already knew;

The death of Mr. Leonard Frank of Vancouver removes a figure widely known in British Columbia. For many years Mr. Frank specialized in industrial photography. His pictures of British Columbia logging, mining, fishing, and other scenes were celebrated, and they have appeared literally all over the world. The cut files of this journal and many another British Columbia newspaper bear eloquent testimony to the art and industry of a man who was a patient, tireless craftsman, and a master of his calling.

Leonard Frank's name is assured of becoming known all over again. Since his death much of his collection of negatives, photos and enlargements have been quietly preserved in the estate of his successor, Otto Landauer.

But, now, good news!

The Jewish Historical Society of B.C. has just acquired the entire residual collection, and goes on record in promising to make the priceless, historical photos available again.

To start with, a Vancouver centennial Leonard Frank Display will be open to the public March 4th to 21st, 1986, in the Shalom Gallery of the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre, 950 West 41st Ave.

Mr. Frank served British Columbia and the world for fifty years, and his fine photographs number well over 20,000. This unique legacy will now be publicized and shown by the Jewish Historical Society.



Leonard Frank's portrait was made by another famous British Columbia photographer, Jack Savannah.

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Gallery Hours are Monday to Thursday 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM