

...Lumbering in Cowichan...



FOUR lumber companies are operating in the District. The principal export of lumber from British Columbia ports, shipping direct to mill, at Chemainus, cuts from one-half to two-thirds of the entire Australia, the Orient, the Cape and England.

The Cowichan Lumber Company own large timber limits at Cowichan Lake, and bring some 10,000,000 feet of logs each year down the river, about December, employing at present some 40 men in the woods, who get from \$2.50 to \$3.75 per day. In addition to the timber on the eastern slope, it will be necessary to bring the timber on the Pacific slope, towards the Nitinat, down the Cowichan River, owing to the rough nature of the west coast. At the present time only the very best of timber is selected, and no trees cut which will not make two feet at the small end. Douglas fir is the principal wood cut. The Douglas is a magnificent tree, three, four and five feet through; it towers up a hundred feet or more without a limb, and its timber is suitable for all kinds of building purposes.

With the rapid improvement in machinery which has taken place of late years, a modern lumber mill is a wonderful sight. From the entry of the log at one end to the exit of the finished article at the other, all is done by machinery. Hoists weighing from 15 to 20 tons are used in the woods to pull the logs into position, to load them on the cars, and finally to dump them into the water, while smaller ones load the lumber into the ships and assist to stow it in the hold.

The Chemainus mill is equipped with two band saws, one gang, two gang edgers, two planers and a surfacer, and has a capacity of 200,000 feet in 10 hours. Employs about 150 men in and about the mill itself, while the logging camps, etc., outside take another 150 hands, the total monthly pay roll amounting to the large sum of about \$20,000.00.