

*Forestry Department*

draw the logs along skid roads. Then came the steam donkey, the gas donkey, the high-lead system, the multiple machine and skyline, and now mobile spars and loaders with diesel engines. For years steam locomotives pulled the heavy trains of logs out of the woods. Now huge diesel trucks transport logs over good roads to the booming grounds.

We have in my constituency two of the largest pulp mills on the island. There are 18 logging companies and 16 retail lumber outlets. All these allied industries are part of forestry and are high priced items. If one stops to consider, this reaches right across the whole of Canada. Radio equipment is quite a big item in the logging industry as trucks and boats are radio controlled. The tug boat enters into the picture there. Stevedoring is quite a big thing and they have developed the booming tugs which are built in Nanaimo which are of great help in the booming of logs. The operators on the island own their own aircraft which also contributes to the economy of the whole of Canada. There are tools of all kinds to be supplied. There are power saws, caterpillar tractors, road graders, bulldozers, caterpillar earth moving equipment—all high priced, high ticket items. Automobiles are used and also very large logging trucks, some of which are built on the Pacific coast and some in the east. Then there is mill machinery and complete machine shops, which means, as I remarked, that this is a big ticket item for the whole of Canada because it is spread right across the country.

I have a letter here from the Comox Logging and Railway Company to the effect that on this members of parliament tour coming up in September they have arranged a program including falling, yarding, loading, tree topping and other phases of the logging industry. Actually about a five-hour program can be put on although we may have to cut it down due to the time element. Transportation will be by car over 30 miles of hard surfaced road to the actual operations. I hope very much that as many hon. members as possible on both sides of the house will take part in this trip, because if they do they will see some of the new type of equipment which is being used in British Columbia.

One of the newest additions to the family of modern mechanized logging equipment, the pre-load trailer, is used by Comox Logging and Railway Company at their Nanaimo lakes operation. With this new trailer the truck drivers do not have to wait while loading takes place, they drop off the empty trailer and pick up a loaded one. The drop off and pick up takes about ten minutes.

They also use the new easy way loader assembly and truck, which loads and hauls logs that are too small or short for the big trucks.

Madill towers are a third major addition for Comox. These are huge steel towers mounted on tank retrievers that can be moved from one site to another. These portable spars are replacing spar trees, saving about three days which it would take to rig up a spar tree. Although they are called Madill towers they are built in Nanaimo, and I know that Madill Brothers are making these machines up and it meant a lot of work for people in the community there. Over the years most of the improvements in methods of logging have been the invention of the operators, and the future will no doubt see many more.

It could very well be said that in the future powerful helicopters will play a large part in removing some of the fine timber stands in the draws and plateaux that are hard to reach. The helicopter will perhaps be used to land portable mills and portable chippers on these high locations and then used to fly out the lumber or pulp chips.

This may sound as though it is looking a long way ahead but I have here the annual report of Okanagan Helicopters and on the front of it is shown a helicopter. This helicopter is flying for the Southern Californian Edison Company near Los Angeles. This big bucket is filled with concrete and they fly the concrete in and drop it down into the form. So you can see that it would not be too big a problem in the future for chips to be landed in that same way and logging can be done that way too. They have experimented with it already and I had the pleasure of talking to Mr. McPherson, president of this company, about two months ago and he said it certainly will move into that type of operation.

In Kitimat this same company pioneered helicopter work probably for the whole world and they set up the big high transmission towers for the electrical system of Kitimat. They brought those complete towers in; the bases had been put there and they flew the towers in. They were let down on the table and set in position. So hon. members can well see that it is not a dream to think that in the future helicopters will serve in quite a large way.

The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. McQuillan) spoke of the large Mars aircraft which are to be used to fight forest fires. Last year I watched one of these aircraft in practice. They fly along the surface of the water, the water is forced up into their tanks, and then they fly over the fires and the water