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#### THE WOOD PULP INDUSTRY.

It is reported that the manufacture of pulp is shortly to be commenced by the erection of a mill, to employ in the neighbourhood of 300 men, on the Gulf shore, at the mouth of Powell River. The syndicate having this undertaking in view have in the aggregate an area of two hundred and fifty square miles of spruce timber lands at various points on the Mainland coast.

#### FIRE CLAY IN THE SIMILKAMEEN.

A shipment of a hundred and twenty tons of fire-clay and brick recently arrived at Vancouver from the United Kingdom consigned to the British Columbia Goldfields Company, of Frank, Alberta, to be used in the construction of coke ovens. In this connection the Similkameen *Star* remarks that few British Columbians are aware that the Similkameen "contains good seams of fire-clay almost identical with the best Scotch and English fire-clays, and equal, if not superior, to any found on this Continent," and adds that "once transportation facilities are afforded there will be no necessity to import fire-brick from England, as this district can furnish, not only this Province, but the whole Pacific Slope.

#### THE LUMBERING INDUSTRY AT REVELSTOKE.

Few of our readers, remarks the Revelstoke *Herald*, realize the importance that the lumbering industry is assuming in the districts tributary to Revelstoke. The enormous stretches of timber land up the Big Bend and in the Arrowhead and Fish River districts must be seen to be realized, and our citizens should certainly consider the possibilities of the rapidly growing industry. It is a well known fact that manufactured lumber has increased largely in price within the past year or two and every indication points to present values being

maintained even if no further rise takes place. The many applications from all over the Dominion and Western States for good timber belts have resulted in a better figure than ever before being paid to those having title to timber.

Many representations have been made that the present tenure is somewhat unsatisfactory and the market would be much brisker and an influx of outside capital would follow if the system of annual licenses now in force were changed. Probably the most feasible suggestion so far made is that licenses should run for five years at a reasonable annual rental with privilege of extension if required. The matter is now engaging the attention of the authorities and it is probable that a change of some kind will be made at the next session of the House.

The timber cruisers are much pleased at the recent action of the Government in cancelling the regulation requiring the survey of limits applied for before granting applications. This, in the first place, was most unnecessary, and worked hardship on the real discoverers of valuable timber belts. The license fee is hard enough to meet, in many instances, without the additional cost of survey which, in districts far removed from centres of civilization, would amount to several hundred dollars.

Recent unfortunate labour troubles have caused an oversupply of logs to the mills on Burrard Inlet, but with the return of amicable relations between the mill owners and their employees this congestion will be removed and lumbering at the Coast resume its wonted activity. In Revelstoke, and districts tributary to it, this has not been felt, as every class of labour engaged in the industry receives the highest current rate of pay. It does not appear that the present course will be departed from and Revelstoke, therefore, need not fear any danger of the diminution of pay-rolls in this city.