

### Wood, a resource man is only just learning to use

Few raw materials contribute as much to man's well-being and comfort as wood. Its benefits are innumerable. The number and variety of capital goods and consumer products provided by trees are constantly increasing and the list grows longer as science progresses and continues to delve into the mysteries of wood fibre.

Man has always processed timber into a construction material. The production of lumber was one of the first uses to which forests were put, a use which has been retained and which has expanded with the increase in market demand as well as with refinements in modern technology.

Lumber refers to the building timber which comes out of Canadian sawmills, and also to a number of other finished or semi-finished products such as shingles, floor boards and finished wall panels. The lumber family also includes composite materials such as plywood and particle-board. The latter is made from wood chips, in most cases sawmill chips that for many years were considered to be unusable waste material.

### Pulp-and-paper industry

Sawmills have also become an important source of supply of wood chips for pulp-and-paper mills. These mills, large consumers of wood materials, are prime users of the forest resources, which are processed into hundreds of products.

The main product of the pulp-and-paper industry in the province of Quebec is newsprint, which represents 61 per cent of industry production. There, the mills produce vast quantities of other papers besides newsprint, notably kraft paper, household paper products and stationery. There are about 500 different varieties of stationery paper in Canada.

Kraft paper, very widely used, is one of the most versatile papers. Because of its strength, it is ideal for wrapping. It is used to make grocery bags, sugar bags, potato bags and cement bags, gummed paper and envelopes. It is also the type of paper used to roll coins.

Household paper products are very commonly used. There are paper towels,



*A tree in the process of falling after it has been cut by the logger*

toilet paper, sanitary napkins, tissues, table napkins, tablecloths and disposable diapers. "All-purpose" paper is more than just an advertising slogan, it is a fact.

The forests also provide the raw material for the production of cardboard, used to make sturdy containers for transporting all sorts of merchandise, from canned foods to refrigerators. Tough packing materials such as cardboard boxes, liners and corrugated cardboard have contributed greatly to

the safe transportation, and hence the saleability, of many types of merchandise.

Light cardboard, often brightened with multi-coloured designs, is used in containers for a wide variety of items, from toothpaste tubes to phonograph records to cereals.

Cardboard vies with glass, plastic and other materials in the manufacture of such items as plates, drinking cups and containers for milk and ice cream. Paper and cardboard products have the distinct advantage of being biodegradable, combustible and recyclable.

### Little-known uses

The list of products from trees does not end with lumber and composite panels, papers and cardboards, toothpicks and matches, not to mention foods such as nuts, fruits and maple syrup. There are also innumerable chemical products which are useful to man and which very few people would associate even remotely with trees.

Cellulose – the substance which makes up wood fibre – provides such diverse products as rayon, cellophane, films, synthetic sponges, explosives, imitation leathers, corks, buttons, lacquers, phonograph records, telephones and lampshades.

Resin from trees is used for enamels, shoe polish, wax, medicines and dis-



*A conveyor dumps logs into a huge pile at Fort William, Ontario.*