

## British Columbia's Place in the Sun

By P. Z. Caverhill, Chief Forester  
in "Root and Branch"

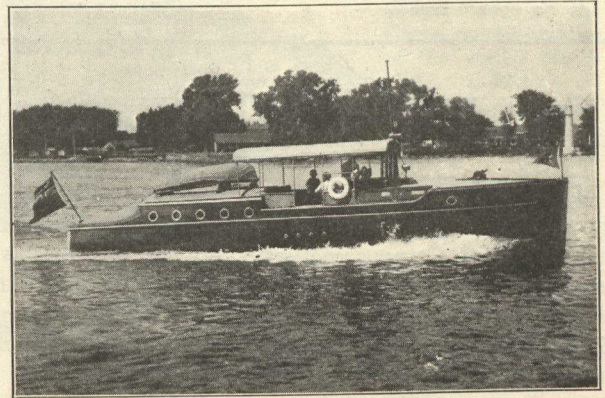
NATURE was wonderfully kind to British Columbia in her allotment of mountains; equally remarkable for their scenic beauty, their mineral filled rocks, and forest clad sides; streams and inlets filled with finny food, and a climate where man and forest may flourish and develop in most congenial surroundings together. Only in the question of agricultural areas (less than 7 per cent), were the gifts in any way stinted. The achievement of our destiny largely depends on the use or abuse of the gifts of nature so lavishly bestowed, and forests are the most susceptible to such treatment.

It is in the development of her forest wealth that the destiny of the Province is most clearly indicated. The real forest wealth, however, is not in the standing timber, valuable as it is, but in the growing capacity of soil and climate, which will replenish again and again through all future years our timber supply, if we only recognize the principles governing tree growth and give our forests a chance. Originally, British Columbia had forests covering one hundred million acres, estimated to contain one thousand billion board feet. Two-thirds of this area has been fire swept and the stand reduced to three hundred and fifty billion feet. Heretofore we have been reaping without thought of the future, and our instruments of harvest have been crude and frightfully destructive.

That British Columbia is capable of supporting a vast forest industry in perpetuity, and a large and prosperous population engaged therein, cannot be doubted by anyone who has studied forest possibilities. Sweden for example, is comparable to the interior of British Columbia. Situated 10 degrees farther north, reaching the 70th parallel, the climate is moderated by the influence of the Gulf Stream, which sweeps the coast of Norway only after moderated ocean breezes cross the Kiolen Mountains. The Winter temperature reaches 59 degrees below and lakes remain frozen from four to six months. The forest area is fifty-five million acres and annual growth thirteen hundred and twelve million cubic feet, roughly equivalent to 9-10 billion board feet, and after supplying the needs of a population of six million people, leaves two billion feet for export. British Columbia, with her larger area and her fast growing coast species, can exceed even this with proper handling.

The limit of soil production is the limit of population. The growing of world population, and the demand for more and more products from the soil, will sooner or later compel the putting of every acre of land to the highest possible productive use. Nothing can stay this process—it is as sure as time. If we do not recognize this, the future generations will, and will be called upon to pay for the abuses we have permitted, in the same way that France was called upon to pay millions to prevent floods caused by wanton forest destruction in the Alps, and as the United States are now realizing they must spend millions to build up forest capital, depreciated through over zealous forest exploitation.

There is no doubting the fact that this Province was intended as the natural complement of the vast Prairie section of Canada; that each needs the other—each is incomplete in itself; that British Columbia in developing the resources Nature has supplied, is capable of, and will support millions of people in the best possible condition for human development. This is our destiny. This is the end intended. Our actions will act for, or retard, the progress according to whether they are in harmony or discord with Nature's laws. We cannot stop the progress, but we do through careless use of nature's gifts, cause future generations to pay the penalties for our omissions.



Pictured above is an example of the skilled workmanship executed in our plant.

WE are qualified and equipped to undertake original or standardized designs and carry them out in detail. On our staff we include a Naval Architect who will act in an advisory capacity in the preparation of plans and specifications.

No work is too large and none too small to receive our most careful attention.

We solicit enquiries regarding the construction of all types of motor driven and sailing craft.

**MONTREAL BOAT BUILDERS  
LIMITED**

371 St. Joseph St. Lachine, Que.