

OCTOBER 23, 1923

DESPAIR OF SAVING CAMERON LAKE TREES

Chamber of Commerce Hears That
Logging of Famous Forest Will
Be Started in Two Months

The Cameron Lake forest, regarded as one of the greatest of Vancouver Island's scenic attractions, is doomed.

Managing Secretary George I. Warren, of the Chamber of Commerce, informed directors of that body yesterday that the Canadian Pacific Railway had given notice that the logging company which recently took over the big timber had decided to commence cutting during the next two months.

In view of the Provincial Government's attitude, the Chamber of Commerce has virtually despaired of saving the famous timberland from destruction.

"The loggers will probably use the high-lead method, and that means they'll clean everything off," said Mr. J. O. Cameron, head of the Cameron Lumber Company and other sawmill and logging interests. "Only the stumps will be left. There is very little undergrowth. The Cameron Lake forest represents one of the few remaining big stands of full grown Douglas fir. There is another just as fine running for about two miles along the Canadian National Railways' Sooke line. We intend to start cutting that down during the next two years."

Mr. F. A. Pauline, M.P.P., stated that much of the Cameron Lake timber was past maturity and would be blown down if it was not cut within the next few years.

It has been proposed that the Provincial Government or the railway company withhold from sale a strip of the timber along both sides of the railroad so as to preserve at least some suggestion of the forest's present beauty.