

work of all kinds, felling timber, "snedding" and cross-cutting timber, measuring timber, and saw-mill work. Further, they have engaged in general estate work, bark-peeling, bracken cutting, clearing up and burning brushwood. During haytime and harvest they have been drafted to this work, which has the advantage of giving that variety which experience shows is so necessary in women's work on the land.

The sustained brisk demand for the services of these women is the best indication of their value. This demand has come from estates, trade nurseries, timber merchants, farmers, and contractors. These employers have shown that they regard as feasible this dilution of their labour, by their keen desire to make conditions as reasonable as possible for the women. They have gone to considerable expense and trouble to make the accommodation suitable and have even made alterations in the length of the working day. Experience has proved that it is more economic to work the women on a slightly shorter day than men, say start at 8 o'clock in the morning, and continue to about 5 o'clock in the evening, with an hour's break at mid-day. As regards working overtime, it is not considered

advisable to attempt this, as they require a fairly long evening to make necessary preparations for the next day.

The usual conditions of labour are free accommodation, with coal and light and, in some cases, potatoes, and a wage varying from 20s. per week to 25s. per week. In some cases, where the women are employed on piece work, they earn as much as 30s. and 35s. per week.

#### *Improved Health.*

The effect on the women of this kind of work, under the above conditions, has been noticed, and in no case has it been found to be detrimental. They have all been able for the work undertaken, and have quickly become fairly expert at it. Their health has, in all cases materially improved with the out-door occupation, and this has been so even in cases where they have been employed all winter.

In conclusion it might be allowed that in view of the foregoing, and having regard to the widest national interests, the training and organization of this woman power, which was formerly dissipated in unproductive labour, has been justified.

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## *Merchantable Timber a Great Asset*

*Eric W. Hamber, Pres. B. C. Mills Timber and Trading Co., Vancouver.*

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There are few better assets for people to possess than good merchantable standing timber in this province. The supplies of the world are being depleted, and whilst there are large bodies of timber in Russia and other places, they can in no way be compared to the forests of British Columbia. Once cut, the forests of B.C. can never be replaced. There will be a new growth, but never the majestic growth that stands here to-day. It therefore behooves us to make the best of this natural resource fund nowhere else in the world except on the Pacific coast, to conserve it in every way possible, par-

ticularly against the ravages of fire and waste, in order that not only to those interested in the industry itself, but more so to the people of the province, should accrue benefits that at the present time they have but little conception of.

We must build our commercial structure on the solid rock foundations of our natural resources, or else we build them on foundations of shifting sand. Let me, therefore, urge that we all put our shoulder to the wheel and by co-operation of interest attain for this, the premier industry of this province, the maximum of result.