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## THE LOGGING INDUSTRY IN CANADA

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Felling trees and sawing logs were among the earliest, if not the first, commercial activities carried on by the original European settlers of Canada. Since then, logging and the secondary wood processing industries have become basic segments of the Canadian economy. Today, the output of these industries together accounts for about 14 per cent of the net value of commodity production in Canada. The net value of logging output alone was \$635 million in 1953, the latest year for which such data are available, or nearly 5 per cent of all commodity production.

During the postwar decade, the logging industry passed through an almost revolutionary phase of development. Rapidly increasing mechanization, improved logging techniques, more year-round operations, more permanent forest workers, substantially improved living and working conditions, higher earnings and increased unionization have been among the most important changes. While marked seasonal and cyclical variations continued to characterize activity in this industry, the seasonal pattern of employment changed in several respects.

### LABOUR DEMAND AND SUPPLY

Labour supplies in Canada increased rapidly in the years immediately following the war as men from the Armed Services and war industries became available for civilian work. As a result, the logging industry was able to meet

its requirements for workers to a much greater extent than formerly and employment rose sharply, reaching an all-time record in 1947. In the following year, demand for lumber and pulp and paper products eased and the logging labour force began to decrease. The downward trend continued throughout 1949.

Early in 1950 employment picked up again, stimulated by heavy domestic and external demand for lumber products and by low inventories. By 1951, a level was reached which was exceeded only by the 1947 record. The general buoyance of the Canadian economy at that time, and in particular the upsurge in construction activity, resulted in strong competition for available labour supplies.

By 1952, the trend turned downwards once again, for log inventories were high and the demand for certain forest products less buoyant. This, together with increasing mechanization of logging operations and the lengthening of the cutting season, led to a decline in logging employment. Labour surpluses appeared during 1952 and 1953, although shortages of certain skilled occupations still occurred during peak periods.

Since late 1954, logging employment has again been showing gradual year-to-year increases, with shortages of loggers developing in certain areas after the second half of 1955.

It is difficult to make accurate estimates of the actual size of the labour force engaged

(Over)

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## CHANGING PATTERNS OF EMPLOYMENT

Logging operations and employment patterns differ widely in the two main logging regions of Canada--British Columbia, and Canada east of the Great Lakes. The timber stands, the types of logging, the seasonal pattern of employment, the occupational structure of the working force, and labour turnover are quite distinct in each. The major characteristics of logging operations and recent developments in both regions are described below.

## EASTERN CANADA

More than four-fifths of logging employment in Canada is east of the Great Lakes. The trees in this region are mainly coniferous; they are used primarily for pulp-wood production but also for logs and bolts, posts and poles, mining timber, fuelwood and various other lumber products.

The labour force consists mainly of farmers and farm workers in their off season. While most of them work in logging as paid employees, a very considerable proportion work on their own account and sell their products mainly to pulp and paper companies.

Operations in Eastern Canada are highly seasonal, the most active cutting season coming in the late fall and early winter and employment rising rapidly from August to reach a peak in October and November. The logs are then hauled to the lakes and rivers. When the ice breaks up in the spring, the logs are floated to the mills in river drives. Employment reaches its trough during the spring break-up period, in March and April, and then rises again during the river drives.

Until recently, summer work was more or less limited to the river drives, and hauling and maintenance work, except in areas that were inaccessible during winter months. Woods work in the summer was made more difficult by hot weather and black flies, and by the problems of transporting wood over swamps and recruiting labour in competition with other seasonal industries. Many of these difficulties still exist but advancement in transportation techniques, rapid mechanization, and efforts by employers to build up a more efficient and permanent logging labour force have led to more summer cutting during the past five years or so.

While the relatively inexpensive system of river driving will remain the general practice for long-distance transportation for years to come, tractor hauling, truck transportation, the introduction of wire cables for skidding and the development of better roadbuilding techniques are making operations more independent of snow conditions previously necessary for hauling.

One of the most spectacular developments in the mechanization of logging during the past five years was the large-scale adoption of the power saw for felling and bucking. In 1949-

in logging operations in Canada, since much of the work is carried on in remote areas, often by small crews or by individual operators. Wide seasonal variations in employment and relatively high labour turnover in this industry also add to the difficulty of estimating employment at any given time. However, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics labour force sample survey, logging employment in Canada reached almost 160,000 during the peak period in the winter of 1955-1956. Most of these were paid workers, although the proportion of paid workers and own-account workers showed wide variations in the course of the cutting season. It has been estimated that the number of paid workers varied from 66 to 86 per cent of the total logging labour force during 1955.

Two-fifths of the paid logging workers in Canada were in Quebec, slightly more than one-fifth in the Atlantic region, and less than one-fifth in Ontario and British Columbia respectively. Some logging was also carried on in the northern Prairie region. It is noteworthy that logging employment in Ontario has been declining during the past few years, partly because of increased mechanization, and partly because of the trend towards year-round operations.

## LABOUR SOURCE

The main source of labour supply for the logging industry is in rural areas. It is estimated that about half of the workers in paid logging employment are farmers or farmers' sons; the rest are permanent loggers and casual employees who find employment in the woods during the slack periods in their usual activities (e.g., fishing, mining and construction). The great majority of self-employed loggers, largely in eastern Canada, are farmers who operate woodlots of their own.

Usually only a small proportion of loggers are recent immigrants. During 1947-48 and 1951-52, however, when demand for labour was heavy, sizeable group movements of immigrant loggers were organized by the federal Governments to augment the supply of workers for the forestry industry. About 7,000 logging workers were brought to Canada in group movements during these periods. In addition, more than 5,000 loggers immigrated to Canada more or less on their own between 1946 and 1955, bringing the total number of immigrant loggers during the postwar decade to more than 12,000.

At the same time, Canada has regularly supplied woodworkers from her border region to neighbouring areas in the United States. Up to a maximum quota of 9,900 men, several thousand Canadians are engaged each year for short or long periods in logging operations in the northern New England states. At the completion of their work, they return to Canada. These movements both relieve shortages of woods labour in such areas and provide substantial supplementary income for a considerable number of Canadian loggers.

**CADET CAMPS:** Close to 8,000 boys of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets will be going to camps across Canada this summer, Army Headquarters has announced.

The programme will be the largest in the history of the Army Cadet organization and is in line with the recently increased ceiling on cadet membership. Within individual corps, there is keen competition for the camp vacancies.

At December 31, 1956, a total of 69,010 boys were members of 559 school and "open" (non-school) corps, and the present ceiling is 75,000 increased last year from 65,000.

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**5-DAY WEEK:** About 56 per cent of sales employees, almost 75 per cent of office employees and about 61 per cent of other employees in retail trade were on a 5-day week in 1956, according to information released by Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Labour.

The information was based on a 1956 survey of working conditions among retail employees conducted by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch. The survey covered 1,280 retail outlets employing 73,501 sales workers, 25,598 office employees and 40,841 employees of other types. For the most part the survey was limited to establishments employing 15 or more workers. The report, therefore, may be considered as representative of the situation in medium and larger stores.

The standard weekly hours for the approximate 56 per cent of the sales employees on a 5-day week ranged between 37.5 and 48 hours for substantial numbers of employees. The largest single group, 29 per cent of the total sales force reported, was on a 40-hour week.

The survey indicated that the work-week of office employees in retail trade was, on the whole, shorter than for other retail employees. Almost three-quarters of the office employees were on a 5-day week and two out of every five were on a 40-hour weekly schedule. Another 43 per cent worked fewer than 40 hours weekly.

Retail employees who could not be classified as either sales or office staff, such as shippers, stock-keepers, truck drivers, warehouse employees, etc., tend to work shorter hours than sales staff, approaching fairly closely the standard of office workers.

The survey indicated that the majority of employees in retail trade were covered by pension, group life insurance and hospitalization plans. Figures showed 84.4 per cent of sales employees, 85.5 per cent of office employees, and 82.4 per cent of other retail employees covered by pension plans. Covered by group life insurance plans were, 79.9 per cent of the sales group, 89.1 per cent of the office staffs and 84.4 per cent of the other group. Coverage by hospitalization plans were 77.4, 86.8 and 84.4 per cent respectively, for each of the three groups.

**HIGH BIRTH RATE:** More babies were born in Canada in 1956 than in any year, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics based on registrations filed in provincial vital statistics offices during the year. The estimated total was 450,500 versus 443,000 in 1955. This would yield a birth rate per 1,000 population of 28.2, down slightly from 28.4 in 1955 but the fourth highest since the record rate of 28.9 in 1947 and 28.7 in 1954.

Deaths also reached a new high at an estimated 132,700 versus 128,500 in 1955. This would raise the death rate per 1,000 population to 8.3 from the record low of 8.2 established in 1954 and 1955. Marriages, estimated at close to 132,000 versus 128,000 in 1955, would be the second highest total on record, exceeded only by 137,155 registered in 1946. The 1956 marriage rate per 1,000 population is estimated at 8.3, the first rise following a gradual decline from 10.9 in 1946 to 8.2 in 1955.

Up to the end of December, provincial registrars had processed the registrations of 447,201 births in Canada versus 440,092 in the preceding year, 130,414 deaths versus 126,570, and 130,649 marriages versus 125,851. December's birth registrations numbered 32,876 (32,989 in December 1955), deaths 9,680 (9,961), and marriages 8,318 (7,775).

#### FIVE PROVINCES GAIN

Birth registrations in 1956 were greater in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, but smaller in the other provinces. Provincial registrations were: Newfoundland, 14,283 (14,086 in 1955); Prince Edward Island, 2,596 (2,815); Nova Scotia, 18,718 (19,068); New Brunswick, 17,025 (16,903); Quebec, 135,245 (131,509); Ontario, 144,089 (140,503); Manitoba, 22,267 (22,074); Saskatchewan, 24,208 (24,783); Alberta, 32,905 (34,465); and British Columbia, 35,865 (33,886).

Registrations of deaths were higher in the year in all provinces, except Nova Scotia and Alberta. Registrations by province were: Newfoundland, 2,735 (2,578 in 1955); Prince Edward Island, 936 (881); Nova Scotia, 5,572 (5,984); New Brunswick, 4,698 (4,488); Quebec, 33,502 (32,647); Ontario, 48,352 (45,673); Manitoba, 7,119 (6,715); Saskatchewan, 6,644 (6,628); Alberta, 7,589 (7,970); and British Columbia, 13,267 (13,006).

More marriages were performed in the year in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, but fewer in the remaining provinces. Totals were: Newfoundland, 3,021 (3,263 in 1955); Prince Edward Island, 645 (673); Nova Scotia, 5,440 (5,326); New Brunswick, 4,443 (4,337); Quebec, 36,930 (34,067); Ontario, 45,633 (44,416); Manitoba, 6,631 (6,815); Saskatchewan, 6,417 (6,487); Alberta, 9,790 (9,510); and British Columbia, 11,699 (10,957).

**REFUGEE RELIEF:** The Department of External Affairs has announced that the second \$500,000 of the \$1,000,000 voted for Hungarian relief by the Canadian Parliament in its Special Session in November will be distributed through the facilities of the Canadian Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees.

The Canadian Red Cross will receive \$100,000 for use in its International Assistance Programme for Hungarian Relief which, among other things, covers the provision of aid to refugees in various camps throughout Europe including those in the Netherlands where immigrants to Canada are now located.

The High Commissioner for refugees, who has been designated by the United Nations Secretary-General to co-ordinate United Nations activities in the field of Hungarian relief, will receive \$400,000.

Of the \$400,000 which will be turned over to the High Commissioner for refugees, \$250,000 is intended for the use of the Austrian Government to help provide for Hungarian refugees in Austria who are not now covered by the terms of the United Nations-International Red Cross Agreement under which the Red Cross acts as administrator for the United Nations in certain of the refugee camps in Austria.

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**WORK FOR HANDICAPPED:** A new record total of 24,694 physically handicapped persons were placed in jobs by the National Employment Service in 1956, it was announced by Col. J.G. Bisson, Chief Commissioner of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Of these, 18,096 were male and 6,598 were female.

Col. Bisson noted that placements of this type had increased rapidly in recent years. The number of special placements made in 1954 was 13,777, and in 1955, 19,753. This steady improvement is attributed largely to the growing awareness of employers that physically handicapped persons make excellent workers when they are placed in jobs that are within their capabilities. Other factors are: generally good employment conditions, excellent publicity from many sources, and improvement in the numbers and training of National Employment Service special placements officers. Col. Bisson said that at the present time special placements officers are located mainly at the larger centres, although similar service is provided on a part time basis in smaller localities. However, plans are under consideration to provide training for those responsible for special placements work in the smaller centres.

The breakdown of special placements by regions is as follows: Ontario, 7,913 (5,609 males and 2,304 females); Quebec, 8,430 (6,444 males and 1,986 females); Prairie provinces, 4,041 (2,746 males and 1,295 females); Pacific region, 3,070 (2,207 males and 863 females); and the Atlantic provinces, 1,240 (1,090 males and 150 females).

**NEW 1953 PEAK:** Canadian automobile manufacturers stepped-up their shipments to a near-record total of 470,674 units in 1956, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. This was an increase of more than 4 per cent over 1955's 453,623 vehicles, and only slightly below the all-time peak of 479,649 units shipped in 1953. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States increased to 43,493 units from 35,968 in 1955 and 26,153 in 1953.

December's shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles increased to 46,985 units from 43,224 a month earlier and 28,185 in the corresponding month of 1955. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States rose to 2,553 units from 1,760 in November but fell from 4,509 a year earlier.

The year's shipments of Canadian-made passenger cars eased to 374,126 units from 374,761 in 1955, but were well above 1953's total of 360,196 units. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States rose to 37,401 units from 29,793 in the preceding year and 22,123 in 1953.

Shipments of commercial vehicles jumped to 96,548 units in 1956 from 78,862 in the preceding year but dropped sharply from 1953's 119,453 units. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States totalled 6,092, slightly below the preceding year's 6,175 but well above 1953's total of 4,030.

Canadian-made passenger cars shipped for the domestic market in 1956 numbered 349,126, little changed from 349,042 in 1955 but well above 1953's 319,739 units. Vehicles for export fell to 25,000 units in 1956 from 24,719 in the preceding year and 40,457 in 1953. Commercial vehicles shipped for sale in Canada increased in 1956 to 88,068 units from 69,487 in the preceding year but decreased from 1953's high total of 99,643.

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**COAL OUTPUT:** Coal production rose slightly in 1956 to 14,848,343 tons from 14,818,880 in 1955, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. All producing areas except Alberta, had higher output than in the preceding year. Totals were: Nova Scotia, 5,773,717 tons (5,731,026 tons in 1955); New Brunswick, 936,566 (877,838); Saskatchewan, 2,342,424 (2,293,816); Alberta, 4,331,327 (4,455,279); and British Columbia and Yukon, 1,464,309 (1,460,921). Landed imports rose nearly 19 per cent in the year to 23,120,300 tons from 19,490,013, with the major portion going to Ontario at 19,241,071 tons versus 16,245,525.

December output declined over 13 per cent to 1,497,000 tons from 1,728,652 a year earlier, Saskatchewan registering the lone increase. Totals were: Nova Scotia, 440,000 tons (518,608 tons a year earlier); New Brunswick, 81,000 (94,964); Saskatchewan, 363,000 (354,546); Alberta, 503,000 (637,852); and British Columbia and Yukon, 110,000 (122,682). Landed imports were 1.5 per cent greater at 1,188,433 tons against 1,171,142.

## THE LOGGING INDUSTRY IN CANADA

(Continued from P. 2)

1950, less than 1 per cent of the total pulp-wood cut east of the Rocky Mountains was done with power saws. By 1954-55, power saws were used to cut well over 50 per cent of all pulp-wood. Some companies now cut 80-90 per cent of their wood in this way.

The widespread acceptance of the power saw and the increasing importance of mechanical equipment for hauling, yarding, loading and barking have resulted in increased production and higher earnings per man-day. While no precise trends in productivity are discernible from data available on logging employment and output during the 1930's and 1940's, it is clear that during the past five years or so output per man-day has increased. A similar trend seems to have occurred on farm woodlots for a parallel process of mechanization has taken place there with the farmer using some of the same tools for cutting pulp wood as are used by logging firms.

### LONGER CYCLE

Partly as a result of these developments, the annual logging cycle during the past few years has begun more than a month earlier than formerly, reaching its peak, as mentioned above, in October-November. There is now more summer cutting, but since all requirements cannot be met in the summer and since much of the hauling is still done in the winter, the periods of operation have grown longer.

The fact that logging in Eastern Canada has had a seasonal pattern running counter to that of most other industries and the fact that it is carried on over a large section of the country have given logging an importance out of proportion to the numbers involved in its labour force. This industry has been counted on to absorb many of the seasonally unemployed during the winter months. The reduction of seasonal employment variations and the advancement of the winter peak employment period in logging may therefore reduce this alternative employment opportunity for a large group of workers unless seasonal variations are reduced simultaneously in all industries, including agriculture and fishing.

Recent developments in logging, apart from their effects on the seasonal pattern, have also affected both average length of stay of the workers in the woods per logging season and the labour turnover rate. This is particularly evident in Ontario, where the average length of stay in forest work in the 1951-52 season was 54 days, compared with 79 days in 1955-56. Turnover declined in line with duration of stay. No similar trends can be detected in the other areas of Eastern Canada at the present time. The average number of days per calendar year per man is slightly less than it was during the 40's, although the length of operation has been expanding. In the Province of Quebec it was about 41 days in 1955. The

reason for this seems to be that the numbers of short-term workers are proportionately so great that they more than counteract an increasing number of longer-term workers. High turnover of labour within the operating season still remains a concern to the industry.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Logging in British Columbia, which employs less than one-fifth of all forest workers in Canada, is carried on throughout most of the year.

Summer and fall are the periods of highest employment. From 1947 to 1951 the seasonal employment peak was reached about October 1. In 1951 and 1952 the seasonal pattern was not as clear, mainly because of forest fires and industrial disputes, but during the 1953-1955 period, employment was at peak levels from about July to November.

The slack period is in the winter months, when snow hampers highly mechanized operations. Camps in some of the interior areas are forced to restrict work in the spring, when road conditions, following thaws, make trucking difficult. In dry and hot years, fire hazard during the summer months is likely to cause work stoppages.

Logging operations in coastal British Columbia, where trees are on the whole larger than in Eastern Canada, are much less seasonal, mainly because of favourable weather conditions and the almost complete mechanization of cutting and transporting operations. These operations have been mechanized to a great extent for at least three decades, in contrast to the system in Eastern Canada.

The chief product is lumber, although the postwar trend towards more diversified processing has promoted the rapid expansion of the pulp and paper industry. Nevertheless, lumber production is still setting the pattern for British Columbia logging employment.

The labour force consists mainly of local, permanent loggers, a large proportion of whom are highly skilled. This source of labour is supplemented by immigrants, farmers and recruits from other provinces. There is also a definite movement of workers each spring from mining to logging and some fishermen log in the off season. Labour turnover is considerably less than in Eastern Canada, although it is relatively high compared with many other industries.

One of the most important developments affecting logging employment in British Columbia has been the rapid growth of the industry in interior areas. While in 1945 logging in the interior of British Columbia accounted for less than one-fifth of the province's total cut, in 1955 it produced more than one-third, and is still rapidly increasing.

Coastal logging is approaching the capacity permissible under the sustained yield management policy of the provincial government. In interior British Columbia, on the other hand, available resources still allow for expansion

to levels which, it has been estimated, would more than double coastal logging. Logging employment in the province's interior, therefore, is rapidly expanding.

One of the effects of this shift in employment is a probable increase in the seasonal variations of employment, although this trend is not yet evident from statistical data. Mainly because of weather and ground conditions, logging in the interior of British Columbia differs from coastal logging and has seasonal patterns and characteristics more similar to logging in Eastern Canada.

**LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

In general, living conditions in the logging camps of Eastern Canada now bear little resemblance to those of a few years ago. Many companies provide accommodations for two to four men to a room, although there are still many camps where the bunkhouse accommodates 50 to 80 men. Most camps, many of which are now portable, are supplied with electric light, running water, showers and indoor toilets. There is a growing interest in establishing forest communities and experimental forest villages based on year-round and continuous operation. These experiments are proving successful.

Cook training and compulsory menus are also common among larger operators. A survey of 150 camp kitchens made in 1951-1952 for the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association showed that the caloric value of the food consumer by a woods worker varied from 5,000 to more than 9,000 calories per man per day, with an average consumption of 6,900 calories. According to estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare, the average requirement in very heavy work is between 5,000 and 6,000 calories, depending on the individual, the type of work he is doing and the length of his working day. The average per capita consumption of the whole Canadian population is just over 3,000 calories per day.

Living conditions in British Columbia have also greatly improved over those of a few years ago. On the Coast, most employers have given up logging camps. The loggers live in towns and are taken out to the logging operations in company trucks. Where isolated operations exist, an effort is made to build up logging communities with the workers accommodated in houses. In some areas, bunkhouses are still used but they are modern, with showers and two men to a room.

Working conditions in the Canadian logging industry have also shown great improvement over the past. Standard hours per week have decreased, although regional differences continue to exist. In Newfoundland 60 hours per week were worked in 1955. In Nova Scotia the range was between 54 and 60 hours, most establishments reporting 54. In New Brunswick the 54-hour week was predominant. In Quebec, most establishments reported a 60-hour week.

In Ontario, 48 hours per week were predominant. The practice in British Columbia coastal areas was 40 hours per week. In the interior the general practice was 44 hours per week until 1955, when the northern interior reduced standard hours per week to 40.

Wage rates and earnings in the logging industry have increased rapidly during the post-war period. From 1947 to 1955 wage rates rose by more than 50 per cent and average weekly earnings by about 70 per cent. Since consumer prices in 1955 were, on the average, only about 35 per cent higher than in 1947, the actual increases in wage rates and earnings represented very substantial real gains.

Other important developments in working conditions were increases in the number of paid statutory holidays per year and in the length of vacations. Unemployment insurance coverage was extended to loggers in British Columbia in 1945 and to those in Eastern Canada in 1950. The duration and benefit rates of unemployment insurance have also been increased.

Important advances have been made in safety measures and in the development and use of protective equipment, such as protective footwear and non-slip plastic gloves and mitts. For example, in 1955, more than 30,000 hard hats were sold to woodworkers in Quebec and Ontario alone. Industrial accident data also suggest that the decrease in labour turnover and the increase in the number of permanent and experienced workers have tended to reduce the number of accidents.

Trade union membership in the logging industry has also been increasing steadily, from 24,000 in 1949 (the earliest date for which comparable figures are available) to 34,000 in 1950 and to 46,000 in 1954. Workers covered by collective agreements in 1948 totalled 10,000 but rose to about 60,000 by 1954. During the postwar period, major strikes occurred only in 1946 and in 1952, mainly in the coastal areas of British Columbia.

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**POSTED TO UK:** George M. Morrison, National Employment Service expert in the field of professional and executive manpower, has been transferred to the United Kingdom office of the Canadian Department of Labour, 61 Green Street, London, W1, it has been announced today by the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Mr. Morrison is widely known in Canada's university cities and towns for his work in placing university graduates in the various professions.

Head of the Unemployment Insurance Commission executive and progression placement organization since it was established 11 years ago, Mr. Morrison's new work will involve liaison with Canadian immigration officers in providing information of opportunities in Canada to prospective British immigrants of professional and executive calibre.