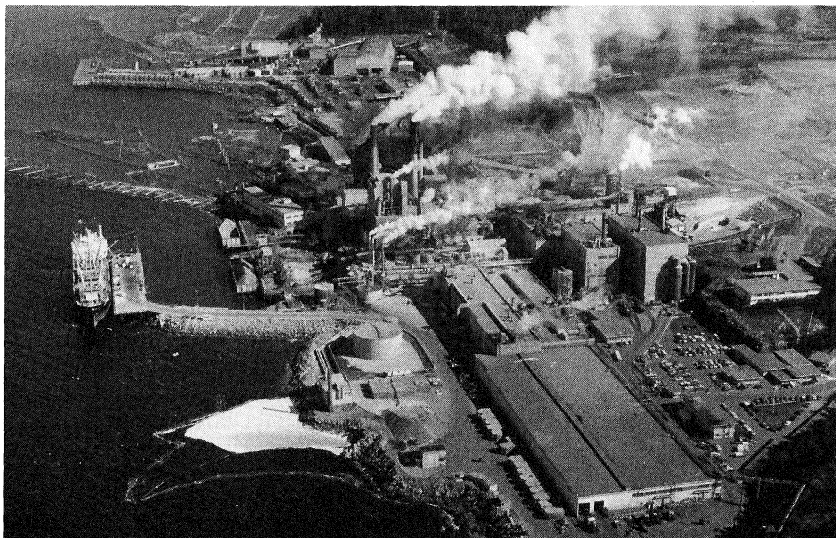


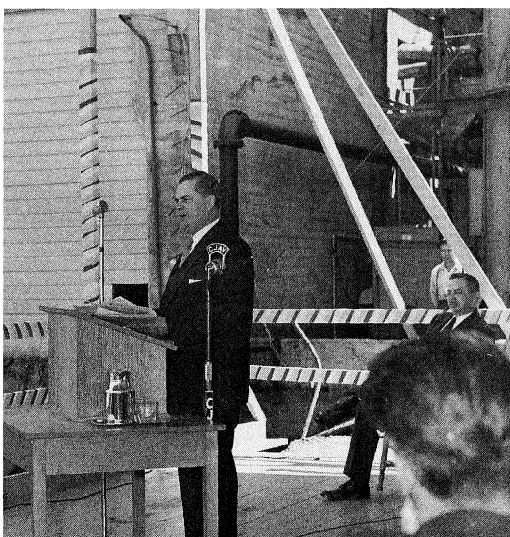
FORDISM IN THE MILLS

THE EDITORS

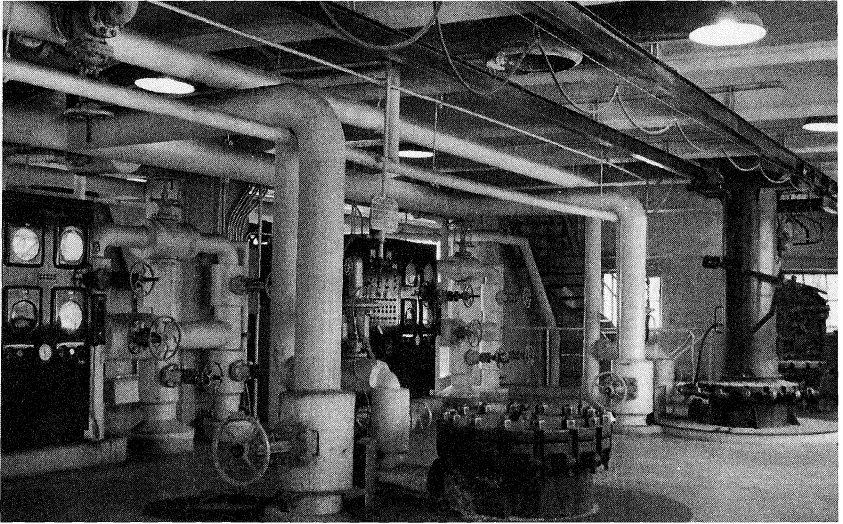


Aerial of Harmac, photo by K. Allen, March 1979. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 20, BC1930/373.

THese photographs show something of the factories at the heart of the Fordist milling practices in coastal BC after the Second World War. The mills, as the aerial view of Harmac shows, were large capital investments at sites accessible to timber and to markets for forest products. Inside them was expensive, dedicated machinery designed to produce a standard product in large quantities. Most workers performed routine tasks around these machines. They worked, managers managed. Productivity per worker was high, and strong unions secured good wages. Major capital improvements brought out important politicians — such as premier W.A.C. Bennett to Port Alberni in 1955.

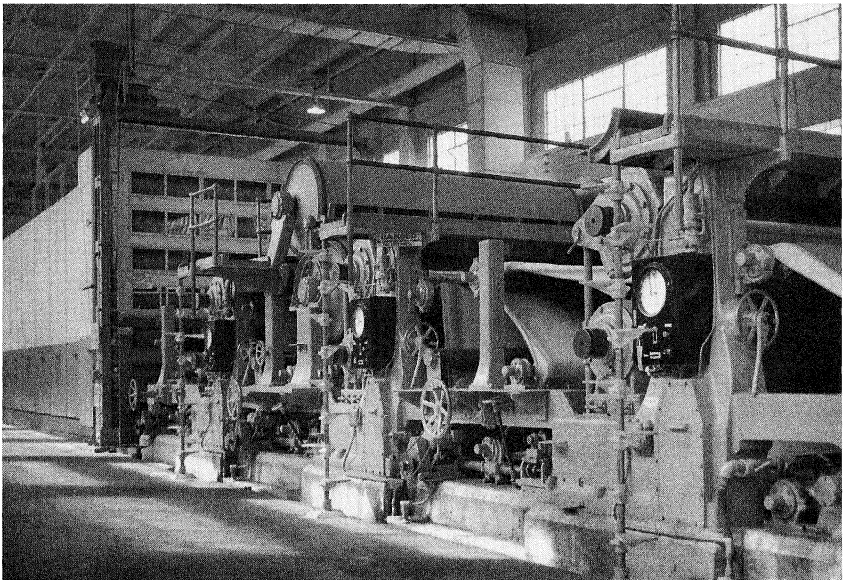


Alberni Pile Driving Ceremony, July 12, 1955. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 20, BC1930/355.



Pulp Mill, Digester Room, Sparshatt & Barr photographers. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 19, BC1930/351.

The system was widely supported. Capital operated with a secure, if somewhat strike-prone, labour force; inexpensive access to primary resources; and, overall, expanding markets for standard products. Unions secured high wages and other benefits for workers. Governments guaranteed forest tenures and provided a variety of services in return for substantial tax revenues. Resource communities



Pulp Mill, Sparshatt & Barr, photographers. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 19, BC1930/351.



Loading Shed Behind cwp Yard, Photo by Jack Cash. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box, 22, BC1930/427.

prospered. High school drop-outs could earn good wages in the mill, and their sons could expect to stay in the community and do the same. Young women could marry, stay at home, and raise their families. The whole system seemed stable and secure. However, as Hayter and Barnes show, it has broken down in the last twenty years, and the forest industry and the communities dependent on it are caught in a massive reorganization, the consequences of which are disruptive and varied.



Photo by Jan Kordes, May 5, 1964. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 21, BC1930/382.