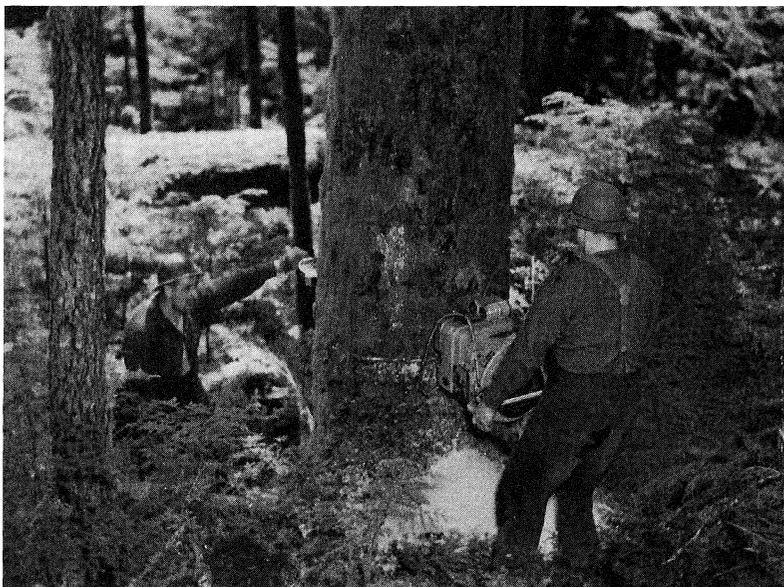


FORDISM IN THE WOODS

THE EDITORS

THese photographs, all taken from the MacMillan Bloedel Collection in Special Collections, UBC Library, show something of the machines, men, and landscapes associated with industrial logging in coastal British Columbia after the Second World War. This was large-scale, capital-intensive, company logging dominated by powerful machines operated by well unionized labor. By these years, the power saw had replaced the cross-cut saw and double-bitted axe as the loggers' basic tool. The logging railway survived in many areas, but was increasingly challenged by the logging truck, an inherently more flexible means of transportation. Large machines and large work-forces were accompanied by large clear-cuts, the prevailing industrial landscape of coastal British Columbia. Most loggers lived in camps, slept in company bunkhouses, and ate in company cookhouses. Logging railways or logging trucks hauled logs to tide-water.



Logging Process, Falling & Bucking, O'Brien Logging Co. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 17, BC1930/224-BC 1930/292.

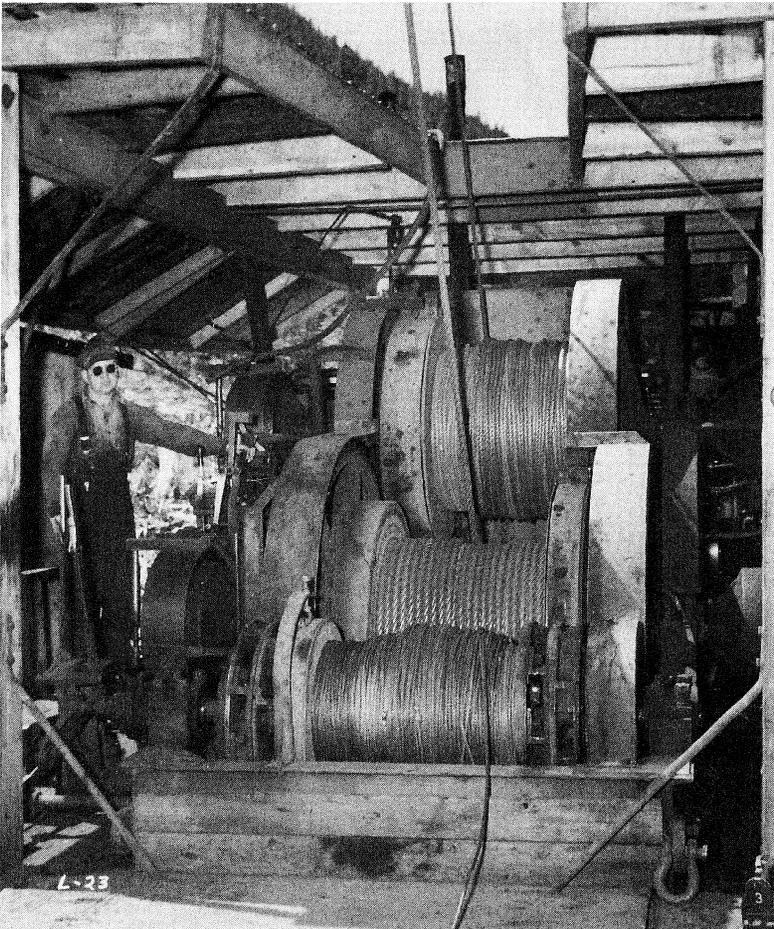


Logging Process, Yarding & Loading: Logging Crane “heeling” large pine log and about to swing it into car, 1940s. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 15, BC1930/131.



Logging Process, Yarding & Loading, O'Brien Logging Company: logs are “yarded” to a general point and loaded on waiting trucks for transportation to tide water. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 17, BC1930/262.

Like others of their kind, these photographs reveal a good deal about logging and hauling in the coastal forests of British Columbia some forty years ago. They depict settings that absorbed millions of working hours and tens of thousands of working lives. They are also remarkable pictures in their own right. The photographers who took them were hired to record successful industrial logging. Wanted was a photographic record of the power of a company's equipment and the efficiencies of its practices. These photographs provided that record — the photographers had done their job. But texts, even photographic ones, have a way of escaping their authors' intentions. These pictures can also be read as records of infernal machines spewing steam, spreading their praying-mantis arms, dominating people and land, and chewing up the forest. Two rhetorics, one of progress and the other of dehumanization and destruction, vie with each other in these images.



Logging Personnel, Skidder Engineer, Bryant Gaddes, O'Brien Logging Company, 1957. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 17, BC1930/262.



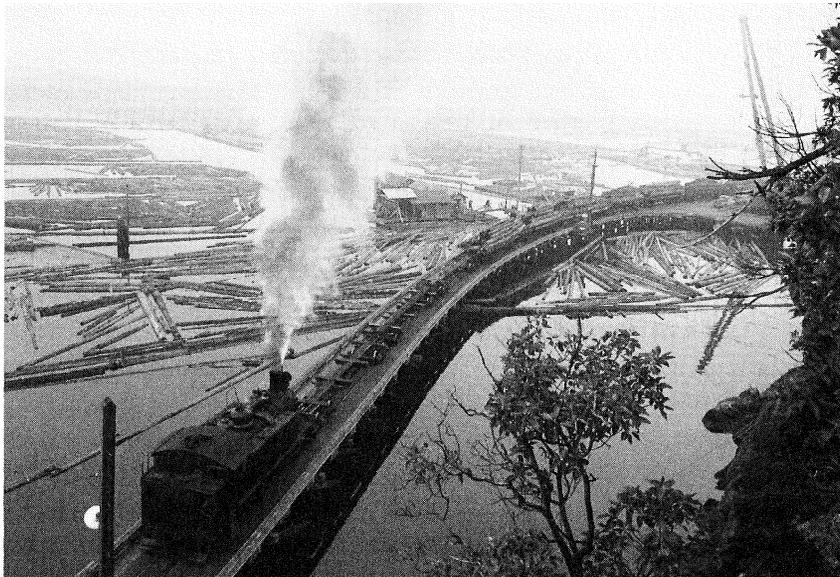
Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 21, BC1930399.



Logging Camp, Queen Charlotte Islands, 1956. Special Collections, UBC Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 18, BC1930306.



Bloedel, Stewart, and Welch, Ltd., logging operation. Franklin River. Loaded logging train. Special Collections, ubc Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 16, BC1930/188.



Logging Process, Hauling-train 1055 - last run (16 Mile), Changeover to other locomotive 1 December 1969, Chemainus Division. Special Collections, ubc Library, MacMillan Bloedel Limited Photograph Collection, Box 15, BC1930/154.