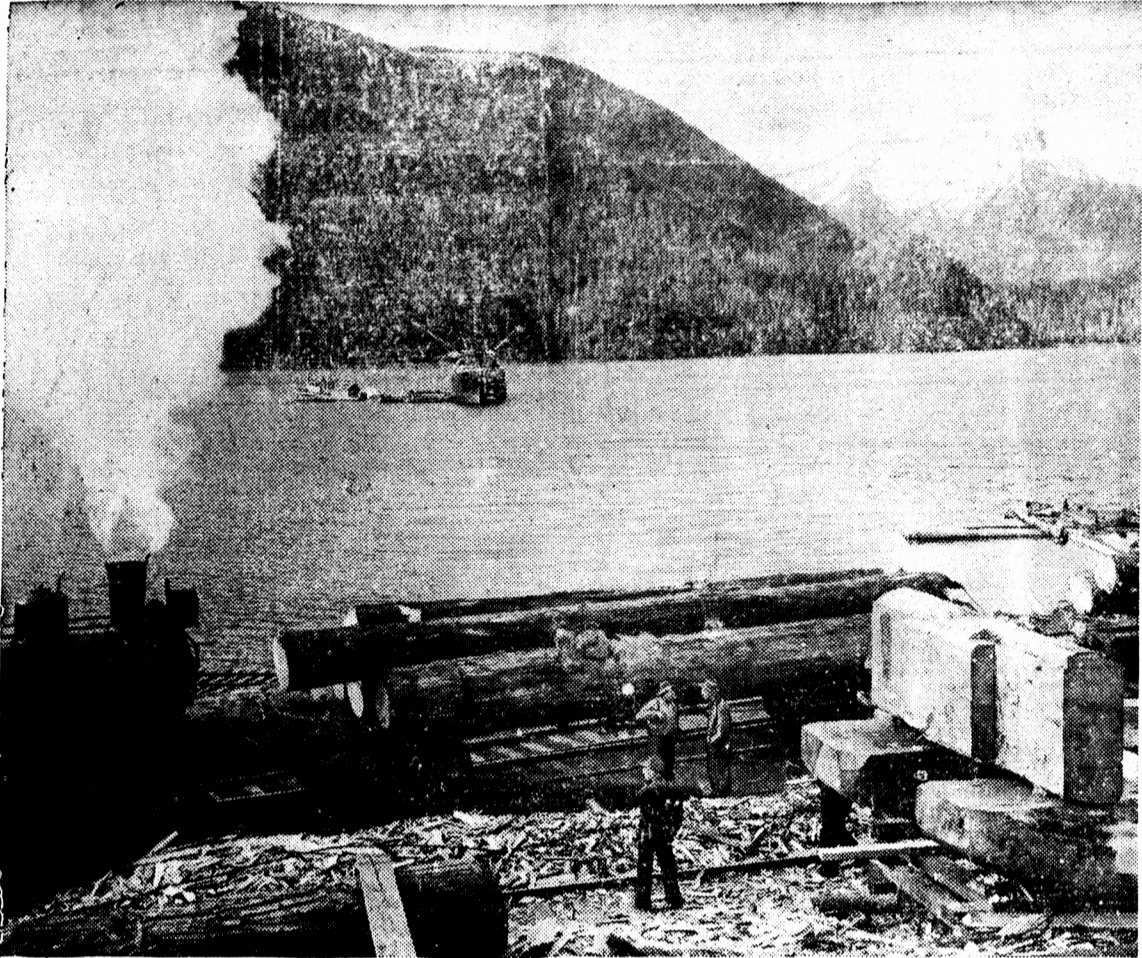


One of the Toughest Jobs on Canada's Home Front Turns Giant Spruce into Bombers



Canadian lumberjacks are striving to cut 200,000,000 feet of spruce log this year, much of it airplane Sitka spruce from Queen Charlotte Islands, just 50

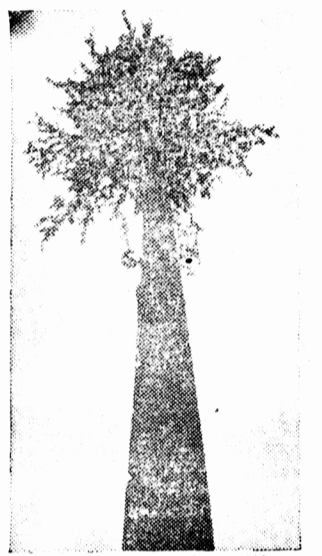
miles from the Alaskan border. Train takes logs to the inlet where they are floated into huge rafts. The lumbermen daily walk five miles through bush to work.



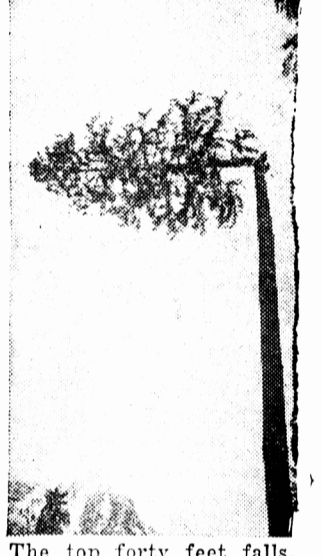
Lumbermen work ten hours a day at muscle-building toil, are on piece work and can earn up to \$15 a day, sawing and chopping seven-foot thick, 300-year-old trees. Boom men pole the mighty logs to make up a Davis raft.



Bill White starts up tree.



High riggers begin cutting.



The top forty feet falls.



Greetings from 250 feet up.



Men of every race, ex-wrestlers, athletes, tough men of the backwoods, fell the forest giants. Alex Pallipcher, a Ukrainian, likes hard work.



Joe McNeil, boss of the "cold deck pile", takes a chaw of stimulating tobacco.



Jack Crosse is a French-Canadian, six feet tall, 225 pounds, an ex-wrestler, is forty years old, but puts in a gruelling 10-hour day as a "faller" — a good one.



Ed Bedlow, boom man, makes Alec Barr, an ace faller, up Davis rafts comprised strides to work, saw and of forty-foot spruce logs, wedge hammer on shoulder.



So adept at leaping from log to log in the river or walking the whirling tree trunks are these lumbermen, they can walk tightropes in best circus style.



Partner of giant Jack Crosse is Ollie Brackoos, a 38-year-old Scandinavian, 135-pound dynamo who hits blow for blow with his huge co-worker. They stick springboards in the tree bole and swing six-pound axes from this perch.



Norman Wagstaff poses beside a Sitka spruce to show the diameter. It is nine feet through, was nearly 300 feet in height, and close to 400 years old.



Much of the Sitka spruce goes into pulpwood to make paper or other pulp products. It is cut up, pressed and crushed, made into a wet mash. Above, a worker

beats the pulp in the last process before it goes to the presses to become paper. Sitka also is used in gun cotton from which comes cordite for explosives.



Spruce is a source of veneers, thin layers glued together with adhesives, shaped, trimmed and cut with razor-edged tools, to make Mosquito plane fuselages.

George Martin of Toronto, who used to do all the fibre woodwork on the moving parts of pianos, finds his peace-time experience valuable in aircraft work.