

Cutting, Handling Pulp Wood Becoming More Mechanized

By ALAN DUCKETT
 DOBÉAU, Que. (CP)—The chain saw probably was the first development in the mechanization of woodlands harvest-

ing by Canada's pulp and paper industry.
 Large-scale introduction of the chain saw took place after the Second World War and since then the cutting and handling of

wood from the forest to mills has become progressively more mechanized.
 Now, as evidenced during a visit to Domtar Newsprint Ltd. operations near this community 250 miles northeast of Montreal, a five-man woodcutting team does work once handled by dozens of men.
 And the future holds still more mechanization, including the possible eventual chipping of wood on the cutting site and dispatch of the chips to the mill

by pipeline. No one at Domtar dares say how far into the future this possibility is.
 The present-day cutting crew of five is made up of two men felling and trimming trees with chain saws, two men "backing" and one driving a "skidder" which gathers and tows the felled trees to a cleared area. There the trees are cut into eight-foot lengths and piled.
 The piles of logs are piled up by a "forwarder" which carries them to the nearest road

and onto trucks for movement to rivers and to the mill.
INDICATE ADVANCES
 The "skidder" a d "forwarder" are positive indication of quick mechanization taking place in the woodlands.
 As one Domtar executive explains it, a tracked vehicle to pick up felled trees and logs was the latest thing less than five years ago.
 But the disadvantages of the tracks is made evident when the

skidders and forwarders are operating.
 Bulldozers had to clear virtually every obstacle before the tracked loaders and forwarders could get into the forest from the nearest company roads. The tracked vehicles required a total of five men to fulfil the job, including a bulldozer operator.
 Now one driver on the skidder and another on the forwarder do the same job.
 Because the new skidder and forwarder have large sized indi-

vidually suspended wheels, no clearing is required before they venture into the forest. They can clear stumps, rocks or virtually any normal obstacle seen in the cutting area.
STILL 20 MILES APART
 But some things have not changed from the "old days." Logging camps still are located about 20 miles apart. That was the distance a horse and wagon could travel and it is still considered, economically advantageous to maintain the 20-mile

distance even though trucks now can carry logs up to 200 miles in one day.
 One of the major reasons as that means no longer are taken out to the men in the forest.
 Good second-class roads are built through the forest and large parking areas are pushed through in each cutting area. As a result the loggers drive their cars to their work site and then go back to camp for lunch and a bit of rest. They can reach the site within minutes in the

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