

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA IN NORTH AMERICA.**

### **Forestry in British Columbia.**

A forest refers to an association of trees, a collection of trees, a group of trees or a community of trees growing together with other vegetation types on the Earth's surface covering large hectares of land.

Forestry refers to economic activity which involves the planting of trees, caring of forests, conservation, preservation and exploitation or harvesting and utilisation of the Forest.

British Columbia is endowed with and gifted with large natural temperate forests, coniferous forests which cover the largest part of the province e.g. at the coastal areas to the Pacific ocean in areas of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Port Hardy, Port Victoria, Port Campbell.

Other forests are in the interior parts of British Columbia along the river banks of Fraser, R. Skeena, R. Stikine, R. Thompson, R. Columbia. Other forests are in areas of Prince George, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Campbell and Kitimat.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF CONIFEROUS AND TEMPERATE FORESTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

- Coniferous and temperate forests are with soft wood for pulp and paper.
- Coniferous forest trees grow fast or are with a short maturation i.e. they take a short time to mature.
- Coniferous and temperate forests grow in a pure stand or they grow straight to a greater height of about 100ft tall or 30-50m.
- Coniferous and temperate forest trees are with leaves that are narrow and needle-like shape.
- Coniferous and temperate forests are with tree branches and leaves which form a cone shape (conical shape) to allow snow fall.
- In the Coniferous and temperate forests one type of tree grows in one area and covers a very large area.
- Coniferous and temperate forests are with limited undergrowth.
- They are ever green throughout the year.
- Coniferous and temperate forest trees tend to form a single canopy.

- Coniferous and temperate forests are with wqxy stems.

### **TYPES OF TREES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

- Pine.                      - Western hemlock.    - Cypress. - Douglas fir.  
- Spruce.                      - Western red cedar.

### **STAGES AND ACTIVITIES OF LUMBERING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

#### **\* Tree felling.**

This refers to the cutting down of trees. The people who cut down the trees are called trees fellers or lumbermen. They work in groups and wear bright coloured clothes and helmets for easy detection.

#### **\* Bucking.**

This refers to the cutting of trees fellers into sizable lobes of about 12m in length for easy loading and transportation. The people who cut the trees into lobes are called the Buckers.

#### **\*Yarding.**

This involves the movement of lobes to Central places for loading into trucks or for transportation and the people who do this work are called chockermen.

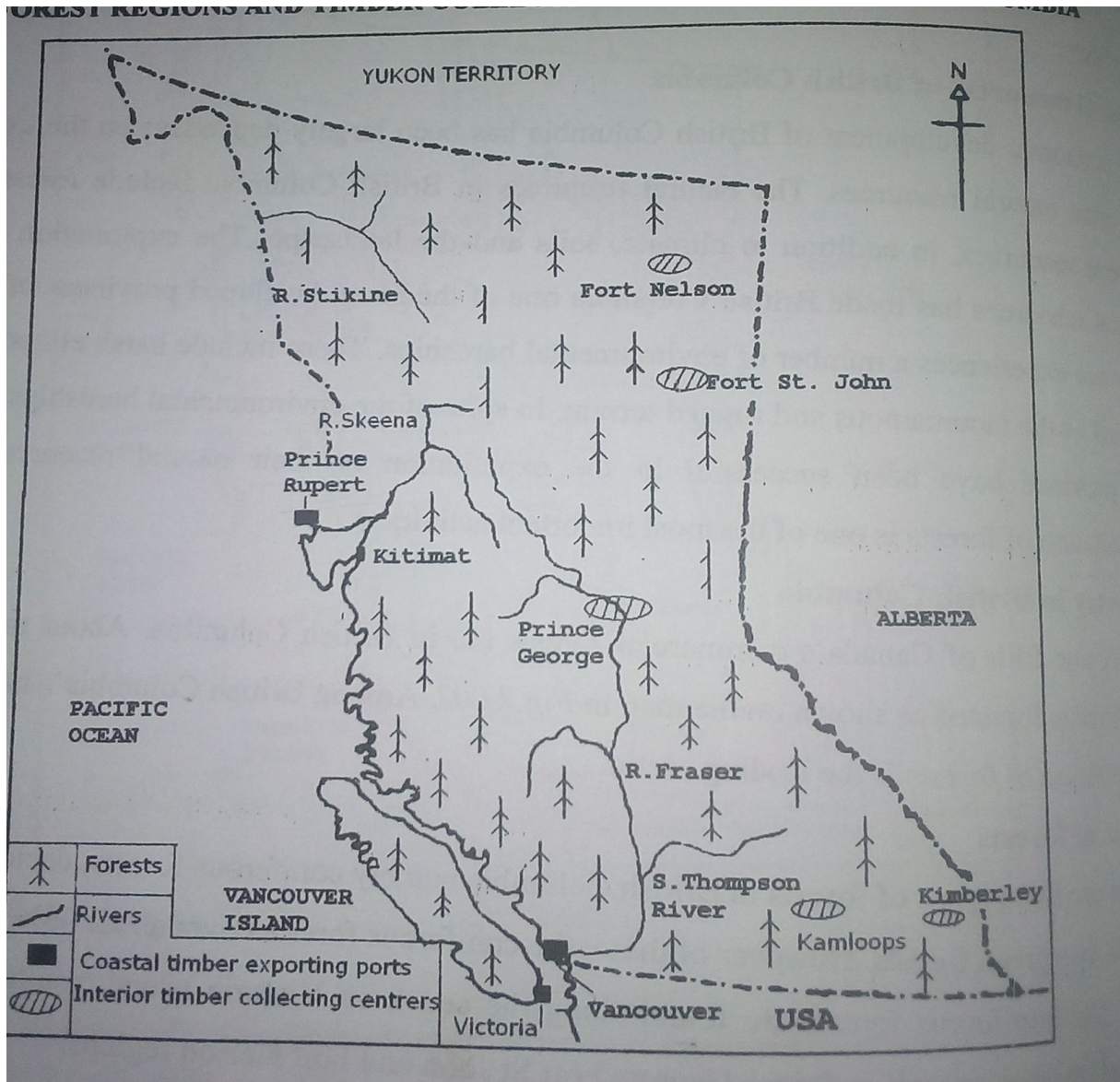
#### **\*Barging.**

This refers to the use of a long narrow flat bottomed boat to transport the lobes on rivers to the processing centres.

#### **\* A booming ground.**

This is a central place in which logs plot down by barges and those floating on rivers are assembled for set before being taken to the processing factories.

A SKETCH MAP OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SHOWING MAJOR PULP AND PAPERS TIMBER AND FUNITURE PROCESSING CENTRES.



### **Products from the soft wood.**

-paper.    - soft boards.    -pulp.    - ply wood.    - furniture.

### **FACTORS OR CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE FAVOURED THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF FORESTRY INDUSTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

#### **Physical factors.**

\* presence of large natural temperate and Coniferous forests in British Columbia which provides soft and hard timber.eg forests in Vancouver island etc.

\* Presence of favourable climatic conditions in British Columbia e.g reliable rainfall that favours the growth of forests.

\* Presence of numerous rivers in British Columbia e.g skeena, Fraser which are used to generate HEP to run machines in Forestry industries. They also help to transport timber logs to saw Mill centres.

\* Rugged relief and mountainous nature in British Columbia which has helped to reduce competition between Forestry and other land uses e.g agriculture and settlement.

\* Variety of valuable and commerical trees in British Columbia e.g pine, Douglas fir which has helped Forestry to compete on world market and provide quality timber.

\* Sparse and low population in British Columbia which has reduced competition between settlements and Forestry hence favouring the growth of trees.

\* Soft nature of wood from forests in British Columbia which makes it easy to be transported running rivers e.g R.fraser during winter seasons.

\*Fertile soils in British Columbia which has favoured the growth of Forest in Vancouver island.

\* Large extensive land in British Columbia e.g in Vancouver island which is used to set up saw Mill centres and to expand industries.

## **Human factors.**

\* Skilled labour in British Columbia e.g lumbermen,saw machine operators, drivers,tree fellers, managers who have helped to do work in Forestry industries.

\* Sufficient capital in British Columbia e.g from government and investors which has been used to pay workers,taxes and buying machines used in Forestry industries.

\* Efficient and reliable transport networks in British Columbia e.g railway lines,roads which are used to connect forests to saw Mill centres e.g Kitimat.

\* Favourable and supportive government policy in British Columbia which have helped to attract investors and market to forestry industry.

\* Presence of wide and ready market in British Columbia e.g domestic and international levels eg Europe, Asia which has helped to buy forestry products e.g soft wood and timber.

\* Advanced and modern technology in British Columbia e.g sawing machines, crane trucks which have simplified work and production in Forestry industry.

\* Sufficient power supply in British Columbia e.g HEP generated from rivers like R. Fraser which is used to run machines in Forestry industries.

\* Intensive forestry research in British Columbia e.g on tree diseases control and on market which has helped to improve on quality of production.

\* Political stability in British Columbia e.g police that keep law and order which has attracted investors and market to forestry industries.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS/IMPORTANCE/BENEFITS OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

\*Forestry has promoted conservation and preservation of Forest in British Columbia which has helped to modify the climate through rainfall formation.

\* Forestry has provided thermal energy for domestic and industrial uses e.g fire wood which is used for cooking and bakery.

\* It has provided employment opportunities to the people of British Columbia e.g lumbermen, Managers, drivers,forest rangers which has earned them income.

\* Forestry has provided raw materials to industries e.g pulp and paper industries, furniture industries which has been used to manufacture other products e.g book,chairs, tables.

\* It has generated revenue to the government of British Columbia which has been used to development infrastructures like roads, schools and hospitals.

\* Forestry has promoted infrastructural developments in British Columbia e.g school roads which have improved standards of living in British Columbia.

\* It promoted diversification of the economy in British Columbia e.g setting up of forestry centres national wide which has reduced on over depending on few sectors in British Columbia.

\*Forestry has promoted urbanisation in British Columbia e.g through infrastructural developments like roads this has led to development in the country.

\* It has promoted foreign exchange and currency in British Columbia e.g with Europe, Asia which has helped to settle international debts and infrastructural developments.

\* Forestry has promoted international relations between British Columbia with others like Europe Asia which has helped to promote peace and unity in the region.

\* It has provided market to others sectors in British Columbia e.g engineering industry which has helped others sectors earn income for development.

\* Forestry has promoted the development of others sectors within the economy in British Columbia e.g tourism which has encouraged development in British Columbia.

\* It has promoted education and research e.g Universities and colleges in British Columbia which has helped students to acquire knowledge and skills about forestry Field.

\* Forestry has provided medicine and herbs to the pharmaceutical industry which is used to treat people in British Columbia.

\* Forestry has acted as habitats for wild animals e.g bear which has encouraged wild life conservation in British Columbia.

## **PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

\* Problem of fire outbreaks especially in summer seasons which destroy forests especially started by holiday makers.

\* Exhaustion of some valuable tree species e.g pine, Douglas fir, Cypress Western hemlock which leads to their extinction

\*Unfavorable climatic conditions e.g winter which interrupts forestry activities hence limiting production.

\* Rugged and mountainous nature of British Columbia e.g rocky mountains which discourages the construction of transport networks and industrial structures.

\* Occurrence of ice flow from mountains in British Columbia e.g on Rocky mountain which destroy forests on the slopes hence limiting production.

\* Competition from other countries dealing in Forest products e.g Europe Asia which leads forestry sector to losses and limits production.

\* High costs of transport in British Columbia due to the mountainous nature, this has discouraged transportation of products.

\* Limited skilled labour in Forestry sector this has made work and production difficult in British Columbia's forestry sector.

\* Unsupportive government policy e.g high taxation in British Columbia which has discouraged investors and market to forestry sector.

\* Occurrence of accidents while carrying out Forestry activities in British Columbia which has caused injuries and death hence discouraging production.

\* Political instability especially rebels in the Forests which discourage investors and market.

\* Labour migration to other sectors e.g fishing which has slowed and discouraged the Forestry activities.

\* Pests and diseases which attacks trees hence leading to low and poor quality yields.

\* Low levels of technology which make work and production difficult in Forestry sector.

## **WAYS OF IMPROVING OR SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY FORESTRY SECTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

\*Fire guards are employed to watch from Central towers above trees and regular patrols are carried out to a void fire outbreaks.

\*Mechanisation such as saw Mills machines should be used to solve the problem of shortage of skilled labour.

\*Application of pesticides and insecticides to combat pest and diseases

\*Use of protective equipments like helmets coloured clothes to minimize the occurrence of accidents.

\*Practising of afforestation and re afforestation to combat exhaustion of valuable tree species.

\*Construction of modern transport networks to easy to easy transportation of products to saw Mill centres.

\*Modern advertisements to compete on the world market with other countries.

\*Use of advanced technology to solve the problem of low levels of technology.

\*Intensive research on forestry issues to improve on the quality of production and getting of market.