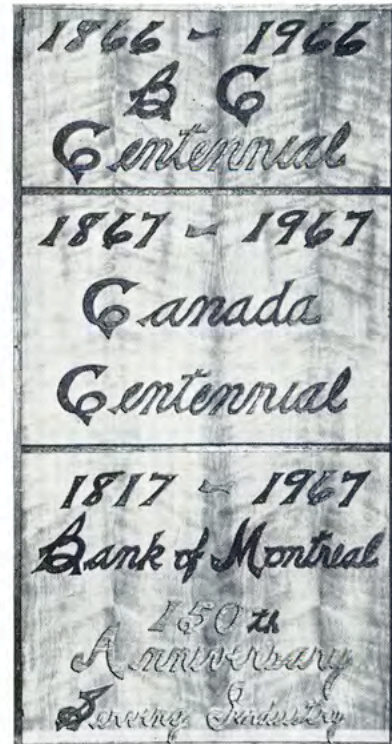


# TIMBER MARKS

*"No person shall float or raft any timber . . ." unless it bears a mark that is readily seen when the timber is actually floating — an historical corporate symbol.*

by Jack Baines, Victoria branch



Author-artist Baines researches for hundreds of hours to ensure accuracy in his panels. This is in Vancouver branch.



• Well before the turn of the Century early Western timber cutters were hammer-marking their logs to show their ownership, much as the cattlemen in the interior had been iron-branding their cows. In either case when the mavericks got lost, strayed or stolen in the cattle drives or the logging runs, they could still be claimed at the round-ups or at the booming grounds before the final marketing.

Compulsory Government registration of timber marks became law in the fall of 1890 and on October 7 of that year the old Brunette Sawmill Company with its historic "Big B" was the first to be entered on a British Columbia list that was to grow rapidly to over 12,000 registered Timber Marks. More than 1,500 sawmills in the Province now produce over three-quarters of Canada's lumber, whereas one third of all trees cut in British Columbia go to the paper mills, plus the chips and sawdust and veneer plant waste. Considering that 50 cents out of every dollar earned in B.C. comes from work connected with the forest industries, and that the annual net value of forest production presently is in excess of \$1 billion, it is no wonder that records of ownership for scaling and stumpage and royalty had to come under systematic control.



Each log is identified by an owner's mark. Few of these historic marks have survived the passing of time but they rekindle thoughts of pioneering days in the industry. Several are held by giant companies of today — others represent operations that have been worked out, dissolved, burned or amalgamated.

Far right: Clearly depicting British Columbia's billion dollar per year industry, this panel shows locations of tree farm licence areas, pulpwood harvesting areas, pulp and paper mills and many larger sawmills.



So the Timber Mark Act in 1890 introduced the first hammer-marking system, and any brand of a logger's own design could be registered with the "Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works". This confused pattern of markings was superseded in 1914 by the system in use today. The B.C. Forest Act now states: "No person shall float or raft any timber on the salt or fresh waters of the Province unless each piece of timber bears in a conspicuous place, so that it is readily discernible when the piece of timber is floated, a registered timber mark issued under this Part for the marking of that timber . . ."

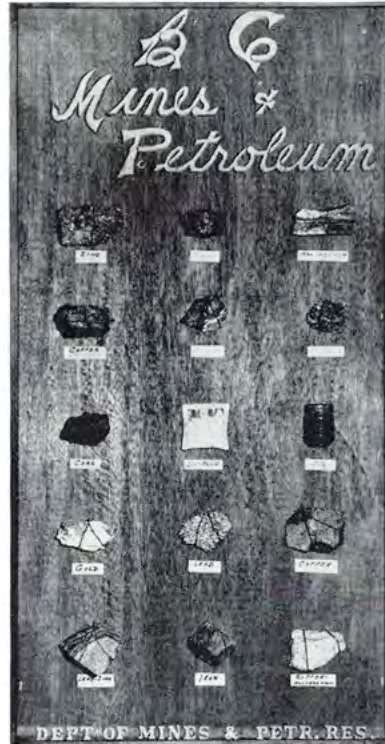
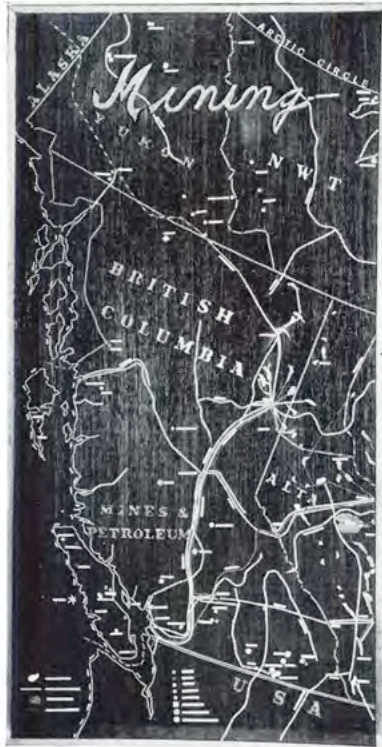
Logs from areas acquired before 1887 must be marked specifically with a letter and a number and a crescent, in that order. For timber off the areas granted after 1887, but before 1906, the crescent is replaced by a bar, and on those granted after 1906 the number would precede the letter. Logs subject to stumpage and royalty are to be prefixed with "SR", and Crown timber sales will include a triangle in the hammer mark. A pulp lease would show by the letters "H" or "J" or "K". A licensed timber berth will show as "TB" or "BT", and any Hand loggers' marks will include the letters "XYZ". A wavy line in the mark will indicate the log is from a Forest Management license

area, and a diamond will show the log was boomed by a salvage operator.

One of the few surviving timber marks of the earliest days is the "Circle F", first registered in 1908 by the Fraser River Sawmills Ltd. and used today by Crown Zellerbach Canada Limited which had also absorbed the holdings carrying the old timber mark "Diamond ITC" registered in 1909 by International Timber Company. These brands and the others appearing on the Bank's collection of timber marks have many interesting stories behind them.

For example, the old Rat Portage Company's timber berth mark "TB2" is now owned along with many other hammer marks by the Canadian Forest Products Ltd. whose president, John G. Prentice, is a director of the Bank. The Powell River Paper Company used the timber mark "CPR", registered over 57 years ago, whereas the Canadian Pacific Lumber Co. used the "Big 7". Later, Harold S. Foley, now a vice-president and director of the Bank, was to become president and chairman of the new Powell River Co. Ltd. which subsequently merged into the giant MacMillan & Bloedel and Powell River Limited. Mr. Foley's interest and expertise had commenced at a tender age with the family company, Brooks Scanlon





Far left: Producing mines are indicated by colour code markers — the oil and gas fields and pipelines are in yellow and red. The asterisk (lower left) shows the location of the offshore drilling rig over the Continental Shelf—"West Coast—Offshore," *Concordia*, April 1967.

Left: Gold, zinc, copper, lead, nickel, molybdenum, sulphur, iron, coal, asbestos, oil — these mineral samples are from the fabulous natural wealth of the Province.



Lumber Ltd., whose hammer mark "BRS" was registered in 1911.

Old-time timber men in Vancouver clubs, retired forestry officials in Victoria, and the tugboat captains, the log birlers and the high riggers of yesterday can all whet the appetite with anecdotes of the questionably romantic and hard experiences of our forebears in the industry. There were years of tremendous development, intermingled with fires, bankruptcy, sell-outs, reorganization, and amalgamations. There were great adventures in financing, shared by our predecessors in banking, and their successors continue to guide some of the largest bank loans in Canada as this industrial colossus helps to keep the nation's economy in high gear. The Hon. Ray Williston, Minister of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources of British Columbia, terms the forest "our richest, most stable, and prime resource, constituting the Province's greatest single asset and presenting a picture of magnificent growth, success, and prosperity."

But the old-time logger in one generation has seen the bigger trees disappear and stiff competition come into the international market. By the mid-40's the raw forest was showing evidence that it surely would not perpetuate

itself without more rigid controls, and so were instituted the programmes of forest management, sustained yield, waste control, and the concept of full utilization. The sawlog industry was to see a pulp and paper and plywood economy superimposed upon it, and today most of the pulp mills are heavily increasing their capacities which already aggregate over 5½ million tons annually. Some ten new mills are this year in completion stages, or under construction, or on the planning boards, for a total new capital investment of \$967 million.

If you beachcomb the shores of Vancouver Island or the Mainland, you will readily find the hammerhead markings on the butt ends of any preserved log, and even on those which have been weathered by the sea for many months or years, unless the salt water teredos have gotten there first! Easy identification is often facilitated by recognized paint marks, and in some cases, the timber marks are indented on small plastic discs driven into the perimeter of the log-end. However, the old heavy steel hammers are still the tried and proven instruments for the imprinting, but it takes a strong set of arms and chest to keep them swinging as the logs haul through.

You might well see the familiar round "table-



tops" up on shore or floating along the coast-line, and wonder if some timber rustler has not sliced the timber-mark ends off a log long since abandoned. This may be so, but the salvage permissibilities must be considered before you let imagination condemn some innocent soul.

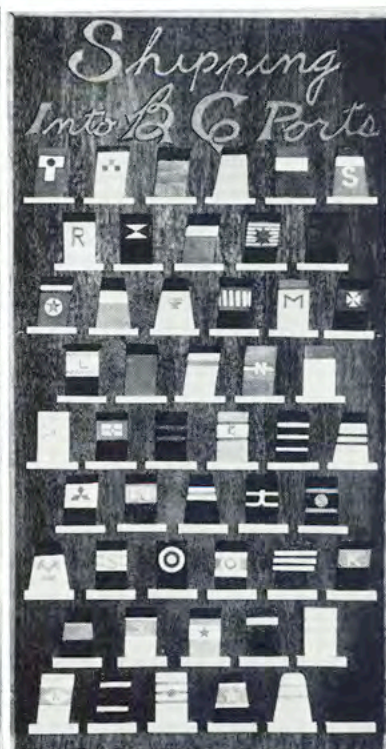
Timber marks are destined to be a part of forestry history for many years to come because it will be a long time before the big trees give way to the plywoods and pulp and particle boards. The venerable Douglas Fir, up to 6 feet in diameter and 250 feet high, might diminish in size as a smaller offspring takes over, but there is an unending demand for the heavy timbers, the keels, wharves, poles, pilings, boats, floors, cratings, and housing. The B.C. mountain rivers are too steep and too swift for free-water runs, but the mighty Fraser is one big marshalling point for boomed logs or barged logs from the coastal inlets to which they would have been skidded or trucked. Red cedar and hemlock and spruce, along with fir, come under sophisticated handling by super equipment capable of individual loads exceeding 100 tons.

The immensity of the forests, the colossal machinery, the billions of dollars invested, the potential of producing capabilities, and the

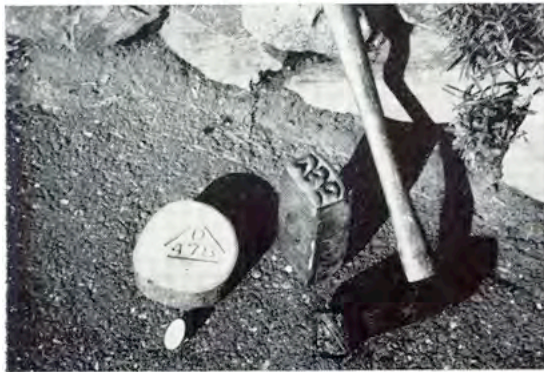
Left below: From thousands of registered cattle brands these are some of the oldest ranches, and the larger ones of today. At the lower right corner is the Baines family brand — originally registered by the author's grandfather in the Northwest Territories in 1897, handed down to his son, thence to the present generation. It is now registered in Alberta.

Centre: The \$60,000,000 "landed value" of the Province's fisheries does not include sport fishing.

Right below: Each colourful ship funnel represents a shipping line plying the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca. Vancouver and New Westminster handle more dry cargo tonnage than all other ports on the North American west coast combined. Canadian, British, American, Japanese, Liberian, Norwegian, Dutch, Greek, Swedish, German, French and Indian lines are shown on the panel.







voracious consumer demands, all add up to a future assured. Vigilance is the watchword on all fronts of forestry, especially against fires which have averaged 1,800 per year of varied destructive intensity. Snow and insects, labour and housing, architecture, competition, exchange rates, shipping tie-ups, steel supply, available power, regulations, and trading blocs, are just some of the ingredients in the economic formula that makes up Forestry.

"The people of British Columbia may not be bushed," says one of them, "but we truly are the children of the forest, and the Timber Mark is on us!"

*Any resemblance to a director and a vice-president in the log-rolling and tree-chopping cartoons is more than coincidental.*

Above left: Not a hoary head of a prehistoric monster — this end of a 4½-foot diameter B.C. Fir clearly shows the owner's mark.

Try swinging a timber-mark hammer hour after hour — it's a job for giants. With it, left, is another head, a plastic marker now sometimes used instead, and an impression of the hammer's mark.

● With Centennial displays and decoration general at B of M branches throughout the Province, the main offices in Vancouver and Victoria have come in for special attention.

The informative and decorative panels shown here are in Victoria branch, capital of the Province. Similar panels are in Vancouver main office, all of them the actual hand work of Jack Baines, formerly deputy-manager at Vancouver, now manager at Victoria branch.

In both cities the panels have received much attention in the press; overtures have been made for reproduction rights, and a request has been made that "Timber Marks" and "Forestry" be placed in the Provincial Forestry Museum.

How Jack Baines makes these panels is a story in itself. "Forestry" and "Timber Marks" were constructed on framed mahogany and teakwood respectively. The central "Centennial-Anniversary" display is on beautiful Hawaiian koawood, while the other five are on walnut or red mahogany. The letterings have been cut from one-inch mahogany. Each of the six panels in Vancouver office measures 4 x 8 feet while the eight in Victoria are 3 x 6 feet. In both offices they are invisibly fixed to the main pillars of the banking floor, blending into the furnishings with the minimum of pretension.

"Cattle Brands", burned on miniature cow-hides set on a mahogany panel, will be familiar to Albertans where over 1,000 ranchers' brands appear on eight panels in the B of M's ranching branches. Similarly the walnut panels on "Mining In B.C." depict the province map and rivers and rails and roads and mines in colored plastic onlays, much in the manner of the "Petroleum Industry" panels in eight of the B of M "Oil" branches in Alberta. The Alberta productions are also the work of artist Jack Baines. For the valuable collection of "Minerals" samples are wired to a walnut panel, assembled in co-operation with the Department of Mines and Petroleum for Victoria, and the British Columbia Chamber of Mines for Vancouver.

Fifty ships' funnels in full colour gleam brilliantly on mahogany, representing the official markings of the main shipping lines using the harbours of Vancouver and Victoria. The "Fishing in B.C." mounts are hand-carved, imposed on stained etchwood, with the production statistics on strips of teak.

Prodigious creator of the projects Jack Baines calls himself a hobbyist with a purposeful twist. Others consider him an artist. In any event, he turns his ideas to the pleasure of Bank customers, personnel, and himself alike and to business advantage.