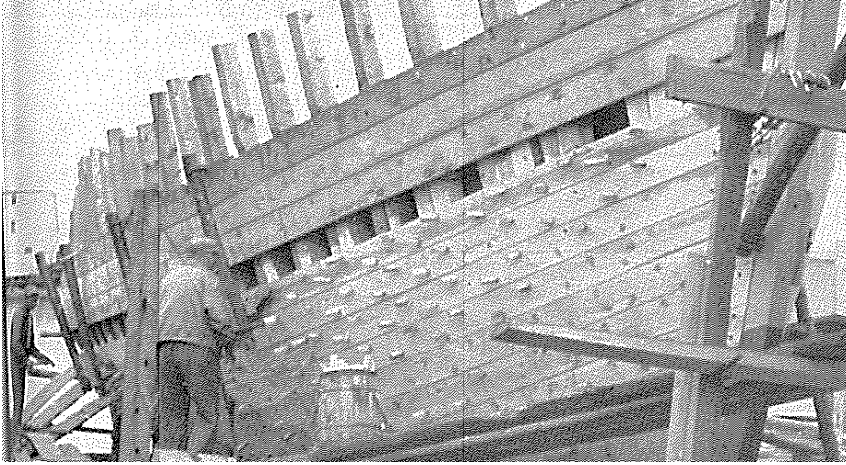
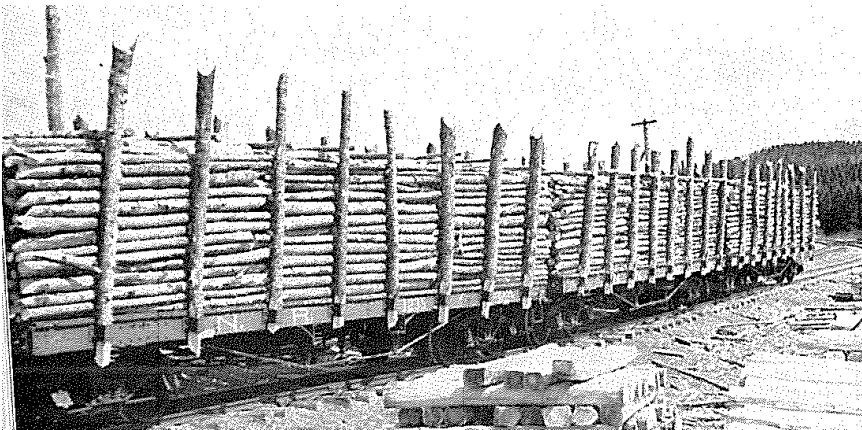


Use the photos (published in the Newfoundland Royal Commission on Forestry of 1955) and text provided to answer the questions on the following page.



Wooden ship building, Grand Bank



Rail shipment of firewood at Parsons Siding, going to Bonavista



Push bench sawmill on Random Island

“By no other means can the boundaries of forests and forest types be so accurately delineated as by aerial photographs. Therefore, on this, my second visit to Newfoundland, I traveled by air from Ottawa to Gander, and spent some 20 hours over the forest areas of the Island.

All the slopes and valley of the (Exploits River) waterways are well timbered, and most of the stands have not yet been disturbed by man, insects or fire. The plateaus, however, are covered by innumerable ponds and bog. From information gathered for my previous report it was estimated that 50 per cent ... of the limits held by the two major companies are comprised of such waste areas. The extent of this year’s burn is appalling. Although occasional islands of green timber remain, the destruction is enormous. The old but sad story told is that “most of the timber burned was small and so the loss is not serious”. In fact, because the timber was small there may be no seed or seed bed to provide for reproduction and the conditions following the 1921 fire may well be repeated. It was significant, too, that with one or two exceptions the burned areas are bounded on one side by the railway.”

**W.M Robertson**  
**Chief of Silvicultural Research**  
**Division**  
**Ottawa, September 28, 1946**

“Direction of all forest resources is in the charge of a single forest officer under the control of a Commissioner of Government appointed for a term of but three years. Proper control of a resource of such magnitude demands establishment of an adequate organization. It is recommended that a Forest Service, or Branch of the Department of Natural Resources be established, with sufficient staff to administer this vital resource on a scale in keeping with its importance...The prosperity of the country as well as that of the industry and populace with respect to forest resources is dependent upon the maintenance of the forests in a healthy condition. To this end a silvicultural research division should be organized to study forest conditions and to advise on methods of forest management.

The work should be conducted from a central office or headquarters where plans will be prepared and data compiled, analyzed and reported upon. A publicity and education campaign to advise settlers of the value of their wood-lots, and of how to care for them is necessary.

A suitable nursery will be required to raise planting stocks to reforest denuded areas, principally those along the coast.

The minimum personnel required for such a division would be:

- 1 Senior Forest Officer
- 1 Junior Forest Officer
- 3 Forest assistants
- 2 Compliers
- 1 Stenographer
- 1 Nurseryman
- 2 Nursery assistants
- 2 or more labourers for short periods from time to time as required”

**W.M Robertson**  
**Chief of Silvicultural Research Division**  
**Ottawa, September 28, 1946**



Logs being floated down river during spring drive, Triton Brook



Contract labour, loading pulpwood from water, Pinchgut Lake

## Questions:

### 1. Read Mr. Robertson’s report on the state of Newfoundland’s forests in 1946 (over the page).

- a. How does he describe the forests around the Exploits Valley? How does he describe the bogs and ponds?
- b. Would scientists today share his opinion of bogs and ponds? Why/why not?
- c. What were his concerns regarding the 1921 fires?
- d. What appears to have been the main cause of the fires during the early part of the twentieth century?

### 2. Read Mr. Robertson’s report on this page.

- a. What were his concerns about forest management in the early 1940’s?
- b. What was his proposed solution to this problem?

3. **With reference to the documents, photos and your own knowledge, discuss the validity of this statement:** *“The forestry industry in Newfoundland and Labrador has undergone tremendous change over the past century.”*