



Release

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

Cable Address - STARK, CANADAFILM, OTTAWA

CABLE CODE - MARSHREED

Set-up: Gil Laroche
Camera: Jack Long
Wally Sutton

Prod. No. 52-311-19
225' Fine Grain Pos.

Rel. Mon. 13/4/53

HARVESTING IN WINTER

GATHERING OF COMMON MARSH REED BIG WINTER BUSINESS -- HAS MANY OUTSTANDING FEATURES WHEN PROCESSED INTO BUILDING PANELS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES, ETC.

SNOW STORM NO HINDRANCE IN HARVESTING VALUABLE CROP

Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, March 00/53.

Harvesting is generally a summer and fall job -- in Manitoba a unique type of harvesting takes place when the ground is frozen solid and temperatures range well below zero -- and the crop is the common marsh reed which grows in abundance in the swamps and marshes of Lake Manitoba. The frozen swamp and marshes allow binders, tractors and trucks easy traction in gathering a crop.

The marsh reeds are processed into building panels in a special machine which turns out from 2,000 to 3,000 panels per day. These panels have the same insulation qualities as a brick wall 22" thick and are fire proof. They can be used for exterior wall covering and as interior partitions in houses, etc -- they take plaster and stucco readily. Marsh reed panels are very rigid and can withstand considerable weight without bending. The construction of these panels is actually a refinement of the thatched roof process and are vermin and rodent proof.

Today in Western Canada the demand for this new type of building material far exceeds the supply and one construction firm in Winnipeg is considering the use of this material in a large scale housing development.