



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Para

Release

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

Set-up & Camera
Alan Grayston

Prod. No. 53-303-34
350' fine grain pos.

Cable Address:
Newsreel, Canadafilm,
Ottawa

CABLE CODE: LOGGING

1,000,000 CORDS OF WOOD STARTS YEAR LONG JOURNEY TO MILL SITE
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HUGE CLAWED SKID-LOADERS PICK UP 2½ TONS OF 12 FOOT
LOGS IN A MATTER OF SECONDS
.....

WORLD'S LARGEST DIESEL TRACTOR TRAILERS HAUL 50 TONS OF LOGS
AT A TIME
.....

Opawica, Northern Quebec, Jan./54

Winter is lumbering time at the Canadian International Paper Company's Opawica operations in the James Bay Watershed. Hundreds of thousands of logs are cut every year and transported by unique methods fifty miles over a height of land to the Wabano River. The area of cutting is 300 miles north of Montreal. The logs are transported by tractor trailers and then floated from the headwaters to Three Rivers, a distance of over 300 miles. It's a year from the time the trees are cut until the pulpwood reaches the mill.

The trees are cut by conventional methods. The logs are then hauled by horse to a woods yard a couple of miles away. There they are loaded on huge tractors for a trip over the height of land. The 12 foot logs are handled by a skid-loader mounted on a crawler tractor. The unique claw on this tractor picks up 2½ tons of logs and drops its load on a mammoth trailer. This trailer and its tractor measure 76' in length and weighs 80 tons loaded. These vehicles are as big as may be found anywhere in the world. The tractor is powered by a 275 horsepower diesel engine.

When the tractor-trailer reaches the log dump, on the frozen surface of a lake or river on the eastern side of the height of land, the trailers are unloaded by a skyline and an "A" frame arrangement which picks up about 12½ tons at a time. In this arrangement a thick cable is slung under the load to be moved and the whole pile is pulled off the truck with a huge crane arrangement. The logs are left on the ice until the spring break-up gets them started on their long voyage down the Wabano River into the mighty St. Maurice and down to the mills at Three Rivers. Here they are transformed into one of Canada's most important exports, newsprint.