

## MAKING PLYWOOD

British Columbia makes most of Canada's plywood. Plywood is made from several thin sheets of wood called veneer which are glued together. Each sheet of veneer is one ply. Plywood is made in different thicknesses. The thickness depends upon the number of sheets or plies which are glued together.

The best tree for making plywood is the Douglas fir. Many large sheets of veneer can be cut from the long, straight, thick trunk of this tree.

At the plywood mill, the bark is removed from the log. Then the log is cut on a large roller which spins the log against a long, sharp blade. The blade

slices off sheets of veneer. Then the veneer is cut, dried, and sorted by quality. The sheets are glued one on top of the other. Each sheet has its grain placed across the grain of the sheet next to it. The grain is the direction of the wood fibres. A hot press binds the sheets together.

Plywood is stronger than ordinary wood. It is not easily bent or split. It is also light in weight. Construction plywood is used to cover the walls and roofs of buildings. Doors, panelling, and furniture are made from the best quality plywood.

Put the correct word in each box to explain the picture.

