

## FOREST TREES.

There is no want of trees anywhere in British Columbia for the use of the settler, the miner, and for local purposes generally, though the arid southern interior might be better supplied on its low grounds. The conifers cover a vast extent of the province. The following is a list of the principal trees :—

*Douglas Spruce* (*Douglas Pine*, *Douglas Fir*, or commercially *Oregon Pine*), very valuable tree. *Western Hemlock*, large—found on coast and on Columbia River. *Engelmann's Spruce*—eastern part of province and interior plateau. *Menzies Spruce*, very large, mostly on coast. *Great Silver Fir*, coast tree of great size. *Balsam Spruce*, abounds in Gold and Selkirk ranges, and east of McLeod's Lake. *Williamson's Alpine Hemlock*, too scarce and too high up to be of much use. *Red Pine*, (*Yellow Pine* or *Pitch Pine*), variety of the heavy yellow pine of California and Oregon; very handsome; 4 feet diameter; common in drier parts of interior. *White Pine* (*Mountain Pine*), Columbia region—Shuswap and Adams' Lakes—also interior of Vancouver Island. *White-barked Pine*, small. *Western Cedar* (*Giant Cedar* or *Red Cedar*), wood pale, yellowish or reddish colour; very durable; often found 100 to 150 feet high, and 15 feet thick. *Yellow Cypress* (*Yellow Cedar*), mainland coast, Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands. *Western Larch* (*Tamarac*), Rocky Mountains, Selkirk and Gold ranges, west to Shuswap Lake; large tree, yielding a strong, coarse, durable wood. *Maple*, valuable hardwood, Vancouver and adjacent islands, Queen Charlotte Island and the Mainland coast, up to 55°, attains a diameter of 4 feet. *Vine Maple*, very strong, tough white wood; confined to coast. *Yew*, Vancouver and opposite mainland shores; very tough and hard, and of beautiful rose colour. *Crab-apple*, along all the coasts; wood very hard; takes good polish and withstands great wear. *Alder*, two feet thick, on the Lower Fraser, and along coast; good furniture wood. *Western Birch* (*Paper* or *Canoe Birch*), Columbia region, Upper Fraser, Peace River; range and value not much known. *Oak*, Vancouver Island, 70 feet in height, 3 feet in diameter. *Dogwood*, Vancouver and coast opposite. *Arbutus*, close grained, heavy, resembling box; reaches 50 feet in height, and 20 inches in diameter; found on Vancouver and neighbouring islands. *Aspen Poplar*, abounds over the whole interior, reaching a thickness of two feet. Three other varieties of poplars are found, commonly included under the name of *Cottonwood*. One does not extend above Yale, and is the same wood largely used in Puget Sound to make staves for sugar barrels for San Francisco. The other two kinds occur in valleys in the interior. *Mountain Ash*, in the interior. *Juniper* (*Red Cedar* or *Pencil Cedar*), east coast of Vancouver, along the shores of Kamloops and other lakes in interior.

The economic value of all these trees is, as yet, imperfectly known. The large saw mills on the coast cut the Douglas spruce largely for the markets of Australia, South America, China, &c. It will be sent by railway from the Columbia River to the North West territory as soon as the railway is finished. It grows in quantity near the coast close to the waters of the bays and inlets. There it frequently exceeds eight feet diameter, at a considerable height, and reaches 200 to 300 feet in length, forming verdigious, dark forests. Abounds on mainland coast, as far north as about the north end of Vancouver Island; also in Vancouver Island, but not on Queen Charlotte Island. In the arid southern interior of the province grows on the higher uplands, and here and there, in groves, on low lands, where the temperature, rainfall, &c., are suitable. Occurs abundantly on the Columbia River, and is scattered irregularly in northern portions of the interior. The timber is straight, though coarse-grained, exceedingly tough, rigid and bears great transverse strain. For lumber of all sizes, and planks it is in great demand. Few woods equal it for frames, bridges, ties, and strong work generally, and for shipbuilding. Its length, straightness and strength especially fit it for masts and spars. Masts specially ordered have been shipped, 130 feet long and 42 inches octagonally hewn. The section of a British Columbia Douglas spruce in the grounds of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, is 8 feet 4 inches in diameter. The tree is 305 feet high. The tall flag-pole in the Botanical gardens, Kew, near London, England, is a young Douglas spruce.

The White Pine of British Columbia is of similar quality to the White Pine of Eastern Canada. The Red Pine (*Yellow* or *Pitch Pine*),—*Pinus Ponderosa*,—is a large tree that makes good lumber. The same may be said of the Western Larch or Tamarac which, together with the above named trees and Cedar, is very abundant in the southern and eastern part of the province. The great stores of forest wealth of British Columbia in