

smooth. The acorns are brown, oblong-oval, set one-third of their length in a spreading cup covered with loose scales. The bark is used in tanning; the wood is reddish, like that of the White Oak; is used in ship-building, and for fuel is esteemed next to the hickory, and is the best of all our oaks for this purpose. It is one of the annual fructification species.

RED OAK, *quercus rubra*. This species belongs to the biennial section, and is found as far north as the Saskatchewan, and is one of the most common in Canada. It is a tall, wide-spreading tree, often attaining a height of eighty feet, with a diameter of from three to four feet. The leaves are smooth, shining on both sides, large, deeply lacinated, and rounded at the base. In autumn they change to a dull red, afterwards becoming yellow as they fall. The acorns are large, contained in flat cups covered with narrow scales. The wood is reddish, coarse grained, strong, but not durable, and is principally used for staves. The bark is used in tanning, but is not as highly esteemed as that of the Rock Chestnut and Black Oak.

BLACK OAK, *quercus tinctoria*. This species is not only widely distributed, but is very abundant. It is one of our loftiest trees, rising to the height of eighty or ninety feet, and measuring four or five feet in diameter. The leaves are large, deeply lacinated, and divided into four or five lobes. The leaves of the young trees change in autumn to a dull red, while those of the old trees become yellow. The trunk is covered with a deeply furrowed bark, which is black or very dark brown, whence it probably derives its name of Black Oak. The wood is reddish and coarse grained, and is used largely for staves, or as a substitute for white oak for other purposes. From the cellular tissue of this oak is obtained the material known as *quercitron*, used in dyeing wool; silk and paper hangings. This is probably the most valuable of those oaks which belong to the section of biennial fructification, and only second to the white oak.

SWINDLING TREE AGENTS.

BY D. B. HOOVER, ALMIRA.

Several years ago we were greatly pestered in this section with a lot of swindling tree agents. They roamed through the country pulling the wool over the eyes of a good many young farmers, who had about