

"knobs." This resin is the "Canada Balsam" of commerce, so much used in the arts and for mounting objects to be examined under the microscope. It is of the consistency of honey, and has a pleasant aromatic odor and slightly bitter taste. It is usually collected in small iron cans fastened to a pole, and furnished at the top with iron tubes sharpened at the end. The tube is pressed against the resin blister to puncture it, and the gum flows down the tube into the can. An average tree yields about half a pound of balsam.

The Banksian pine (*Pinus banksiana*, Lambert), gray pine, scrub pine, jack pine, Labrador pine, or "Cypress," grows freely on the dry, sandy drift ridges and rocky hills of the burned-over areas of the western half of the peninsula between the St. Lawrence and Whale Rivers, but does not thrive on the low swampy land along the eastern coast of James Bay. The wood is close-grained, soft, fairly strong, and weighs about 30 pounds per cubic foot. In color it is pale brown or rarely orange, and the nearly white sapwood is quite thick. Its suitability for mine props and general construction work has not yet been appreciated. When large enough it is suitable for railway ties, and occasionally is sawn up for lumber. Recent experiments show that good pulp can be made from it. It has a fuel value of 48%, and a dry weight of 30 pounds per cubic foot.

The aspen (*Populus tremuloides*, Michaux) does not seem to grow north of latitude fifty-four, and is somewhat fastidious as to soil. It prefers gravelly hillsides or moist sandy spots in the river valleys and along the lake shores. In the western part of the peninsula it grows abundantly on the unmodified glacial till of the drift ridges, but about the headwaters of the East Main and Hamilton Rivers (where the ice sheet was thickest) it is rather scarce. Its tiny seeds are provided with long silky hairs, which scatter them far and near with every wind that blows, and the seedlings grow rapidly in exposed situations. This explains why the aspen is the most widely distributed tree in North America, and also why it is generally the first tree to take possession of the soil on burned-over areas. Its roots prevent the washing away of the soil from steep slopes, and its leaves and branches afford shelter to the seedlings of longer-lived trees. It acts as a nurse tree towards most conifers, and plays a most important part in the re-stocking of our northern forests. With its pale bark, slender pendulous branches and shimmering leaves, it is a most graceful tree, and enlivens the sombre landscape with broad bands of color, light green in summer, but in autumn glowing like gold against the dark cliffs and gloomy conifers.

The wood is close-grained, has a cottony fibre, and is quite light and soft; but is neither strong or durable. The heartwood is of a light-brown color, and the thick sapwood is nearly white.