

creases in size below and above this elevation, and becomes distorted and scrubby at tree line.

Between the Pelly river and the north fork of the McQuestion the timber line has been variously estimated at from 4,200 to 4,700 feet above sea level. In these localities the only tree represented was the balsam, the spruce generally disappearing a few hundred feet below.

In the Klondike district, timber line only reaches an elevation of 3,500 feet above sea level. The last tree seen here is the spruce, balsam being altogether absent.

The poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) grows on the islands and alluvial flats of the main rivers; it occurs mixed with the spruce, or in thin fringes along the gravel bars, and in small forest groves. It is seen in all stages of growth from a small shrub to a considerable forest tree. It gives out an agreeable and refreshing odour during the early summer; it is also known as the "balm of Gilead."

The aspen is specially characteristic of dry, open grassy hillsides facing southward, of which there is a great extent on the Yukon, Pelly and Stewart valleys.

The birch in the Yukon Territory never forms extensive groves, but grows singly or in small groups with the black and white spruce. Most of the birch is small, being mere poles, but one species (*Betula resinifera*) sometimes attains a diameter of eight or even ten inches and is valuable for stove wood.

The willow, being the principal food of the moose, rarely attains the size of a forest tree, but occasionally willow trees are seen in the neighborhood of old Indian villages.

In the spruce forests of the valleys, dry willow trees are found entangled in the living spruce in great quantity. These willows are often three or four inches in diameter and ten to twenty feet high. They evidently protected the spruce seedlings but were finally overshadowed by them. This supply of dry wood is of great benefit to the voyageur as it ensures a good camp fire in wet weather and during winter travel.

The most widely distributed shrub is the dwarf birch (*Betula glandulosa*), it grows densely on portions of the mountainous