

APPENDIX "O."

BRITISH COLUMBIA TIMBER RESOURCES.

(*R. E. Gosnell in World, B.C., Annual.*)

British Columbia may be said to possess the greatest compact reserve of timber in the world, and for the reason that heretofore merely a fringe of timber has been cut, and had it not been for forest fires that in years gone by devastated a considerable portion of the interior, within the dry belt, the supply of timber available for commercial purposes would have been nearly double what it is. However, as the coast possessed the great proportion of choice timber trees and accessible, the ravages of fire have not been appreciable to anything like the extent they have been in the interior.

The coast as far north as Alaska is heavily timbered, the forest line following the indents and river valleys and fringing the mountain sides. Logging, so far extends to Knight's Inlet, a point on the mainland opposite the northern end of Vancouver Island. Here the Douglas fir disappears and the cypress takes its place. North of this cedar, spruce and hemlock are the principal timber trees.

The principal limits and the great bulk of the timber are found on Vancouver Island, principally located and running up the valleys of Cowichan, Chemainus, Nanaimo, Englishman's, Little Qualicum, Big Qualicum, Comox, Oyster, Campbell, Salmon, Adams and Nimkish rivers, and French and Black creeks, and other streams and tributaries of the above rivers and in the Alberni valley; in Westminster district—along the Fraser and Pitt rivers, on Burrard Inlet, in South Vancouver, and on Howe Sound; the principal inlets of the coast as far as Knight's Inlet; and on the islands in the Gulf of Georgia—notably, Cracow, Valdez and Harwick.

A description of the various timbers in British Columbia, with their distribution, will be interesting. Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga Douglasii*) is named after the noted botanist of that name and not Sir James Douglas, as many imagine. It has a very wide distribution, being found from the coast to the summit of the Rocky Mountain range. On the coast it attains immense proportions, very high and clear of imperfections, sometimes towering three hundred feet high and having a base circumference of fifty feet. The best averages, however, are one hundred and fifty feet clear of limbs, and five to six feet in diameter. This is the staple timber of our commerce, often classed as Oregon pine, and having about the same specific gravity and strength as oak, a wide range of usefulness, and being especially adapted for construction work, where strength is required. Prof. Macoun classifies it as standing midway between the spruce and balsam, and states it as his opinion that it would make a valuable paper-making tree. The cedar has two important representatives, red cedar (*Thuja gigantea*) and yellow cedar or cypress (*Thuja cypressis*).* The former is found all over British Columbia, but reaches its greatest majesty on the coast, where it can outgirth any other tree. Besides being a valuable timber of commerce for finishing purposes and shingles, it is the settler's greatest friend, out of which he can build his house, make his furniture and fence his farm, and that without any other aid than an axe, a saw and a hoe. Invaluable as red cedar is, yellow cedar is still more valuable. It is very strong, wonderfully durable, makes a beautiful finishing wood and grows to great size. It is found in great quantities in the interior of Vancouver Island, and on Mount Benson comes within 1,200 feet of the sea. Towards the north of the island, on the Queen Charlotte Islands and on the north coast of the mainland, it is found lower down and is very plentiful. It is out of the cypress that the Hydah Indians build their great war canoes, many of which have an eight-foot beam, are sixty feet long and can stem the heaviest seas of the

* *Thuja excelsa*.