

valleys, and somewhat level plateaus, which serve to distribute the flora somewhat generally over these sections,—the more northern plants finding their way southward on the mountain sides, and the more southern forms ranging northward through the valleys. These mountain ranges occur in almost parallel groups, and, with the principal rivers, lie in a general north-easterly and south-westerly direction, thus favouring the range northward into this region of the trees and other plants of Washington and Oregon. Speaking generally, the interior of the Province in its southern part has in some degree the characters of a plateau shut off by intervening mountains from the moist winds of the coast. This has resulted in a drier climate and in the occurrence of a representation of the plants of Nevada and Utah.

The Conifere (or Pine Family) include nineteen out of the thirty-five British Columbia forest trees, and in the vast mass of individuals of the species as compared with other trees, form one of the characteristic features of various parts of the Province. In the near future, with the opening up of the country by railways and with the increased utilization of the navigable rivers, the lumber industries of British Columbia will rise to immense importance. Such timber as that obtained from the Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga Douglasii*), Yellow Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and White Pine (*Pinus monticola*) are already more or less known to commerce, but there are other coniferous trees, such as the Red Cedar (*Thuja gigantea*), Engelmann's Spruce (*Picea Engelmanni*), Menzies Spruce (*Picea Menziesii*), Western Hemlock (*Tsuga Mertensiana*), and Yellow Cypress (*Chamæcyparis Nutkaensis*), whose qualities are not so well known, but which may yet take an important place in the lumber trade of the country. Some of these trees, as the Douglas Fir, occur in great abundance, but often in localities which will be practically inaccessible to the lumberman, until cheap railways are constructed to the rivers or seaboard, and the waterways are improved or utilized. Everyone, however, who has the best interests of the country at heart, must hope that the government of British Columbia will profit by the results of the unwise policy of the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion, and will carefully conserv. . . forests so as to make them a continued source of revenue, instead of allowing fires and the lumberman's axe to have unrestrained sway among them. In