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Pam. Lawson, George

REMARKS ON THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS
OF THE
CANADIAN SPRUCES—

SPECIES OF PICEA.

BY GEORGE LAWSON, PH.D., LL.D., F.R.S.C., PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY,
DALHOUSIE COLLEGE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

Our native spruces (belonging to the genus *Picea*) have received attention at different times from many botanists, but their conclusions in regard to the number of species, and the exact relations of these to each other, have not been concordant. It seemed desirable to invite attention again to the subject, and this was done in a preliminary paper read in Section IV of the Royal Society of Canada, at the Meeting held at Ottawa in May last (1887). The discussion on that occasion, and subsequent correspondence, have shown that the matter is not without interest, and have suggested the desirability of publishing some of the facts then stated, as well as results subsequently reached, together with some historical details,—so as to indicate our present knowledge on the subject, the information still needed, and the directions in which profitable enquiry may be made. Local observers and collectors throughout the Dominion, and travellers visiting northern points, may do much to aid in determining the geographical range of the several species, varieties, and forms, and the continuity or intermittence of their distribution in different regions.
