

*By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland :*

Q. What character of soil would be the most suitable for the purpose? A. Rocky and sandy soil, although I have seen it grow in all kinds of soil. I have seen groves of those trees in stiff white clay, but it grows in gravelly and sandy land better than in any other kind.

Q. Is there any practical useful purpose to which that kind of timber could be adapted? A. It would make a splendid wind break on the prairie. It grows one hundred feet high in the best situations. It makes good ties, telegraph poles, and timber for general purposes, besides fuel.

Q. Does it grow straight? A. In groves it grows very straight, but it is more apt to be branchy than red pine. I have seen hundreds of them in groves, affording logs of from 20 to 22 inches in diameter—two or three logs to a tree.

*By the Honorable Mr. Reesor :*

Q. How far north have you known the Banksian pine to grow? A. I have seen it myself as far north as Lake Athabasca, and it has been noticed far down the Mackenzie River, and west to the Rocky Mountains.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. The further north you go the smaller it becomes? A. Yes. It is in its perfection half way across the continent, and half way between its northern and southern limits. It grows very rapidly. I have seen it about the mouth of the Kaministiquia River, in the townships of Neebing and Paiponge, behind Port Arthur. I have seen it growing up there within the last fifteen years, in my experience to be useful trees—whole tracts of these townships covered with it since the surveys were first made.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. If those cones were planted in the North-West, what size would the trees likely be in fifteen years? A. In fifteen or twenty years they should be at least 25 or 30 feet high. They grow thick and bushy if they have room to spread out, and would afford some protection from the north west winds.

Q. You think it would be suitable for the protection of barn yards? A. Yes; but the settlers would require to know the nature of the cones before planting them. They could be laid in a wire jack or basket and held over a fire and scorched, so that the scales would open and the seed could be shaken out. The seed would then require to be planted at once after the cones were opened.

Q. Supposing you were telling a settler in the North-West how to plant these seeds, repeat to us what you would say to him? A. I would say to the settler "gather the cones and scorch them in a wire basket over a hot fire for a few seconds, and when they are sufficiently scorched to begin to open, take them off. Do not burn them sufficiently to damage the seed. Then shake them out and plant them immediately."

Q. How deep would you plant them? A. I should think only a couple of inches.

Q. Would you attempt any preparation of the soil? A. I should plant them in ploughed soft soil, two inches deep.

Q. Are there any specific directions as to the attendance to them afterwards? A. No; I should think not. They would bear to be transplanted afterwards. They seem to be very vigorous trees, and the young plants could be carried any distance afterwards.

Q. You are well acquainted with the North-West; what treeless districts are there that you would suggest their being transplanted to? A. Any district that is fit for settlement and in which trees would be required I think these would grow. They would grow, probably, everywhere in the North-West.

Q. Take the Province of Manitoba, for instance? A. In the western and southwestern portions of Manitoba where timber is scarce I think the *Banksiana pine* would become a valuable acquisition. They might be expected to grow as far west as the Rocky Mountains, north of the Saskatchewan Valley.

Q. You mean north of the north branch? A. Yes, and even a little south of it in the neighborhood of the North Saskatchewan.