CALIFORNIA CEDAR.

The incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*) is one of the valued trees of the California coast and mountains. It is eminently noted for great rapidity of growth, wonderful lightness, stiffness, and extraordinary durability. A thousand uses have sprung up and are multiplying around this interesting cedar as its most inestimable qualities become better known. Fortunately it is one of the most extensively distributed trees of the Pacific—found from the coast range north, south to San Diego, Sierra Nevada, southern Oregon, and most of the interior mountain region from 2,000 to 4,000 feet, and it even thrives quite well at 6,000 feet altitude, but seeming to give out at 7,000 feet, though said to extend to 8,500 feet, which is questionable. As usual with the sylva, flora, and fauna, this also is found lowest along the coast, where it finds the requisite temperature and other essentials, with combined moisture. The base or lower trunk somewhat resembles the Western juniper (*J. occidentalis*). It is to be noted in general that trees of such broad, outwardly sweeping, or expanded bases seldom blow over, and to the perceptive and artistic eye their significant character is one of firmness and stability. One hundred to two hundred feet high, six to nine feet in diameter (rarely larger) the shaft is often clear of limbs 50 to 100 feet, and although the lower limbs or even dry branches, may encumber the middle portion, pin-knots do not damage the timber. The massive body tapers more rapidly above than redwood, and is less eccentric than juniper, yet its general port resembles most the best specimens of the latter. The light cinnamon bark is thick and of shreddy fibered texture, but so concretely compacted as to render the surface evenly ridged by very long, big bars of bark. These sweep obliquely down on the long spiral twist of swift water lines. The top is conic, the foliage is in compressed, flattened sprays, upright, thickened, and somewhat succulent; if not a languid type, at least in no sense rigid. It bears some resemblance to the great western arborvitæ (*Thuja gigantea*), but the tiny leaf-scales are opposite and quite awl-pointed. The general hue of the foliage is light yellowish green, warmly tinted, golden and bead tipped, with tiny, oblong male catkins, as the fruit ripens in October and November. The cones are pendulous from the tips of twigs, oblong, and seldom over three-quarters of an inch long, little more than one-third as thick, and for the most part slightly compressed. The wood is a pale cream tint in color—a delicate salmon-shade. This would hardly warrant the name white cedar, sometimes applied to it, as well as the giant arborvitæ. The extreme lightness of the lumber and its sweetness for packing boxes will commend it for express and commercial purposes, for posts and fencing, and especially railway ties, for sleepers, stringers, and ground timbers of all varieties, and for unnumbered uses, a tithe of which cannot be told in a brief notice. Formerly these trees were cut away and burned up to clear the track for redwood, tamarac, and ponderous pitch-pines, etc.; now all also is superseded by this incense cedar. Thus is seen how hasty and ill-advised notions give place to genuine merit.

A fungus (*decaatus*) attacks and honeycombs it; and riddled as it may occasionally be, still, if spike or nail finds substance enough to hold, or sufficient solidity to resist crushing, then, for many purposes, even such lumber is practically as good as the soundest timber; because when the tree dies the fungus dies, and thenceforth will absorb no more moisture than the soundest part, and is alike imperishable, contrary to common experience in such cases. This is a timber nearly as lasting as solid granite. For ship or boat lumber, the clear stuff from sound wood is so exceedingly light, stiff, and durable, and is plenty and available, that few timbers excel it, unless the yellow cedar or cypress (*Cupressus nutkaensis*) is excepted, which is a little tougher, stronger, and has more elastic, and equally durable, if judged apart from thorough tests and careful data, which, it has been remarked, the apathy or ignorance of some governments appear to deem unworthy their sublime attention. There are said to be in California a thousand times more and better kinds of naval timber on government land as important to preserve as the live oaks of the South Atlantic states. It has been asserted as possible that, after due investigation, California would be found to possess a vast amount of the best naval timber in the world, a hundredfold more lasting than the best now in use, if a few woods are excepted, of which there is understood to be no very adequate supply.

The great Washington cedar (*Sequoia gigantea*) is another important California tree. The great sequoian timber belt lies along the Sierras, upon the first exposed mountain side—moraines of recent retiring glaciers—that face the Pacific, from Calaveras on the north to near the head of Deer Creek on the south—a distance of 200 miles, or a little above 38 degrees north to a little below 36 degrees; altitude 5,000 to 8000 feet and rarely 8,400 feet. The belt is broken by two gaps, each 40 miles wide, caused by manifest topographical and glacial reasons, one gap between Calaveras and Tuolumne, the other between Fresno and Kings river; thence the vast forest trends south, across the broad basins of Kaweak and Tule, a distance of 70 miles, on fresh moraine soil, ground from high mountain flanks by glaciers. The inscriptions are scarcely marred by post glacial agents, and the contiguous water-worn marks are often so slight in the rock-bound streams as to be measured by a few inches. Rarely does one of these sound and vigorous cedars fall, and those that do will lie 800 to 1000 years, scarcely less perishable than the granite on which they grew. The great sequoian ditches, dug at a blow by their fall, and the tree tumuli, always turned up beside the deep-root bowls, remain; but, scientists assert, not a vestige of one outside the present forests has yet presented itself, hence the area has not been diminished during the last 8,000 or 10,000 years, and probably not at all in post glacial times. These colossal sequoias rise 275, 300, and even 400 feet aloft; are 20 to 30, and in some rare cases 40 feet in diameter, looking like vast columnar pillars of the skies. No known trees of the world compare with them and their kin, the redwoods, for the focused proximity of such a marvelous amount of timber within limited areas—as it were, the highest standard of timberland capacity. The stage coach passes through one; 120 children and a piano crowd inside another; a trunk furnishes a house for cotillon parties to dance "stout on stumps;" a horse and rider travel within the burnt out hollows of others, and so on. A single tree would furnish a two-rail fence 20 to 30 miles long. The tree has great value for wood and lumber.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

A FRENCH COMPANY.

Commenting on Mr. Senecal's late visit to Europe the *Witness* says: "Another great scheme said to have been inaugurated in Paris is a new colonization company, which, it is said, will be formed with a capital of $10,000,000, to acquire lands for colonization purposes in the province of Quebec. Lumbering operations will also be included in the business of the company, as well as mining operations of all kinds. The company, after making all preparations, such as the building of houses, etc., will bring immigrants from all parts of the old world, and give them a home, with a certain lot of land; thus the immigrants will have every convenience. It is also the intention of the company to construct large grain elevators for the purpose of storing grain in the winter at some central shipping point. The company will also, if circumstances warrant it, extend their operations to build large mills, and instead of exporting the wheat they will export the flour. It will make an endeavour to manufacture a great portion of the North-West wheat and export it as flour."

U. S. WOOD AND LUMBER TARIFF.

The committee of ways and means have completed the wood and wooden ware schedule of the proposed tariff, and the bill which they are preparing will, unless changes are hereafter made, provide for the following rates of duties.

Timber, hewn and sawed, and timber used for spars and in building wharves, 15 per centum ad valorem.

Timber, squared or sided, not specially enumerated or provided for in this act, ½ cent per cubic foot.

Sawed boards, plank, deals and other lumber of hemlock, whitewood, sycamore and basswood, 75 cents per 1,000 feet board measure; all other varieties of lumber, $2 per 1,000 feet, board measure. But when lumber of any sort is planed or finished, in addition to the rates herein provided, there shall be levied and paid for each side so planed or finished 50 cents per thousand feet, board measure; and if planed on one side and tongued or grooved, $1 per thousand feet, board measure; and if planed on two sides and tongued and grooved, $1.50 per 1,000 feet, board measure.

Hubs for wheels, posts, last blocks, wagon blocks, ore blocks, gun blocks, heading blocks and all like blocks or sticks, rough hewn or sawed only, 20 per centum ad valorem.

Staves of wood of all kinds, 10 per centum ad valorem.

Pickets and pailings, 15 per centum ad valorem.

Lath, 10 cents per 1,000 pieces.

Shingles, 35 cents per 1,000.

Pine clapboards, $1.50 per 1,000.

House or cabinet furniture, in piece or rough and not finished, 30 per centum ad valorem.

Casks and barrels, empty, sugar box shooks and packing boxes, and packing box shooks of wood, not specially enumerated or provided for this act, 25 per centum ad valorem.

Manufactures of cedar wood, grenadilla, ebony, mahogany, rosewood and satinwood, 35 per centum ad valorem.

Manufactures of wood or of which wood is the chief component part, not specially enumerated or provided for in this act, 35 per centum ad valorem.

Wood, unmanufactured or not specially enumerated or provided for in this act, 20 per centum ad valorem.

The changes made in the above list from the existing tariff commission report are as follows:

On hewed and sawed, etc., the present tariff is 20 per cent. ad valorem; the commission report is 20 per cent.; the committee reduce to 15 per cent.

On timber squared and sided the present duty is 1 cent per cubic foot; the commission report in favor of the existing rate; the committee reduce to ½ cent per foot.

On sawed boards, planks, deals, etc., of hemlock, whitewood, sycamore and basswood the existing rate is $1 per thousand feet board measure. The tariff commission report is the same. The committee cut this down to 75 cents per thousand feet.

All other varieties of lumber are unchanged at $2 per 1,000 and existing rates on planed and tongued and grooved lumber are adhered to both by the commission and the committee.

On hubs of wheels, posts, last blocks or rough hew or sawed existing rates are continued.

Staves of all kinds are placed at 10 per cent., both by the committee and the commission. The existing rate of 20 per cent. on certain undressed staves appears to be put in the 10 per cent. class.

The committee put the duty on pickets and pailings at 15 per cent. ad valorem. The commission reported in favor of 20 per cent., which is the present rate.

Laths are put at 10 cents per 1,000 pieces. The commission reported in favor of continuing the existing rate, 15 cents.

Shingles, cabinet furniture, dressed and undressed, are maintained at the existing rates. Empty casks and barrels, sugar boxes, shooks and the like are placed by the committee at 25 per cent. ad valorem. The commission recommended 30 per cent., which is the present rate.

Pine and spruce clapboards, manufactures of cedar wood, etc., are maintained at existing rates.

SWEDEN.

THE Stockholm correspondent of the *Timber Trades Journal*, writing on Dec. 16, says:—Since my last report there is a decided stiffening feeling prevalent amongst holders of sawn stocks in the north of Sweden. As far as can be ascertained, this alteration has been brought about partly by the issue of a very favourable circular from the leading London brokers, and partly by the fact of two or three good contracts having been closed in Hudiksvall and Geflo districts, at prices very near to those of last season. Nevertheless, looking to the extraordinary shipment of the past year, and the heavy stocks that are supposed to exist in at least two of the principal shipping districts, it will probably not be considered wise to stand out for the full prices obtained during the early part of the past season. This applies to red wood, but as for whitewood I cannot see that there is any necessity for our Sundswall and Hernosand exporters selling at the low figures they are said lately to have done. The prices of similar goods from Canada, coupled with the decrease of production in the Riga and contiguous districts, consequent on the burning of mills, stocks, &c., and the difficulty experienced in getting anything insured during the terrorism prevailing there, should enable Swedish holders of whitewood to insist on last season's figures at the very least. It may, I think, be taken for granted that anything less than £5 per standard for unsorted white battens f. o. b. Sundswall or Hernosand does not leave a living profit, taking the risk of six months' credit into consideration, and there would be no difficulty in obtaining this figure at present, were the smaller mills in the two districts referred to not in the habit of loading themselves with goods beyond their financial powers.

IMPERFECT APPLICATION OF CREOSOTE.

A correspondent of the *Timber Trades Journal* says:—It is important that the attention of those who make the creosoting of timber their business should be directed to the imperfect manner in which a great deal of the creosoting work is now being done. I have it in my own knowledge that, in the case of an order for wood recently ordered to be creosoted, the wood was *dipped* in the creosote instead of the oil being *injected into it* by pressure.

When wood which has not been previously dried has applied to it a coating of creosote, or any other material which clogs the passage of air from the interior, the elements of decay, being confined, rapidly assume activity, and consequently the application is more hurtful than advantageous. This fact does not appear to have received general recognition, and the system, therefore, of simply *tanking* wood in creosote continues in existence.

I would advise engineers and others who may be making use of creosoted timber to apply the test, here and there, of having the wood sawn though, so that it can be seen whether the creosote oil has thoroughly penetrated the wood. The test is an easy and satisfactory one, and I understand that in cases where it has been applied it has been found that the application of creosote has been of a most superficial nature, and that in consequence the wood has been *returned to the senders.*

A Successor to White Pine.

A noteworthy fact in the lumber business of Chicago, says the *Times*, is the annual increase in the supply of southern yellow pine manufactured in Missouri and the gulf states. By many it is claimed that this lumber will be the successor of white pine in western markets should the supply of the latter cease as soon as now predicted. At this time, however, the cost of transportation does not allow large shipments of southern lumber, and long timber and dressed flooring are the only grades of yellow pine sold in Chicago. The latter, being dressed before shipping, is greatly reduced in weight, and at current prices affords a satisfactory profit. Enough lumber has already been received from the south to remove any fear of a lumber famine in this city for many years, as, if it can pay present rate of freight, it will come naturally to a large market when the south has more railway competition, which increasing wealth and enterprise are sure to supply.

Letter from Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C., Feb. 19, '82.

GENTLEMEN,—Inclosed find $1, and will you send me some of N. H. Down's Vegetable Balsamic Elixir by express. I have a bad cold, as has almost every one else here, but cannot find the Elixir, which I used frequently at home and consider a most valuable medicine; in fact, the very best remedy for a cold that I ever used.

Very truly yours, WILLIAM W. GRANT.