

sive grove of trees or block of woodland. Usually a man does not go to the woods to cut trees, but to the bush. The introduction and use of this expression in Prince Edward Island is quite natural and proper. To a certain extent it supplies a lack which the other provinces might borrow with profit, since it is more expressive and convenient in many cases. The other provinces use the word "grove" in a similar sense; it is also sometimes so used in Prince Edward Island. It would be quite proper in Prince Edward Island to say that "Mr. Jones lives in the white house beside the fir *bush*." In New Brunswick or Nova Scotia such an expression would signify that near his dwelling there was a small fir tree. In other words, the same conditions in either of these provinces would indicate that he lived beside a *grove* of firs.

This common use of the word "bush" as expressive of a body of trees may be explained in part by the absence of any extended forests such as obtain in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. To this may be added the fact that Prince Edward Island was originally settled by people who, for the most part, came directly from the old country, where the term "bush," as distinguished from forest, had a definite meaning. On the other hand, the mainland provinces were first inhabited by people of New England origin, to whom the word "woods" became familiar by virtue of their vast forest surroundings. Thus this peculiarity is explained. It is of interest to note that the word "bush" has impressed itself so deeply on Australia that it takes the place of both "woods" and "forest" in that country.

In this connection we are reminded of another somewhat peculiar expression. Though wire fences are becoming somewhat prevalent, the old rail fence, in different forms, is still in common use, the material for which is generally referred to as

fence rails or poles. But in the Garden of the Gulf, if not universally yet quite generally, these poles are called "longers." I have not been able to trace this expression to its origin, but it probably came across the water. It is supposed by some to have been brought to this country by emigrants from the Channel Islands a century ago, but this is uncertain.

A common variety of wood from which these "longers" are made introduces us to another provincialism common in this region. This is the general use of the term "var," as applied to the fir tree, so called elsewhere. There is, of course, good authority for the use of the word "var," but it is quite safe to say that it is practically obsolete in Canada, except in isolated communities. It is doubtless of English origin, but has not come into general use on this side of the ocean, fir taking the precedence. The same tree is generally called "the balsam" in Ontario and the West.

We may now note a difference in the scope given to the word sleigh in Canada's most eastern province, as compared with the adjoining provinces. Here everything that has runners is a sleigh, irrespective of its build or use, with the possible exception of a hearse. It may be a jaunting sleigh, a pung sleigh, a wood sleigh, a bob-sleigh, a mud sleigh, a drag sleigh, or a hand sleigh; it is always a sleigh, the particular kind being determined by the prefix. In the adjoining provinces, however, the term "sleigh" is used in a much more limited sense, generally being applied to what has here been referred to as a jaunting sleigh. The word "sled," seldom heard on the island, in the other provinces always is applied to the heaviest forms of runnered vehicles.

There is authority for both expressions, and the term "sleigh" may be applied to all such vehicles, though the distinction between a "sleigh" and a "sled" is both simple and con-