

Q. Sometimes they degenerate into brush? A. Yes, at the outside edge of the territory in which they grow. As you go north, south, east or west, they may become smaller and smaller until they die out, but this is not the case with all kinds of trees. The nature of these cones shows that fire is a natural phenomenon. Forest fires have been attributed to the Indians and others, but this fact proves that they must have existed from as great a time as this tree has.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. We will suppose that a district burned over completely, and that those cones are opened by this burning, and in process of time trees commence to grow again. Do these seeds grow exactly the same kind of tree or is there any difference in the variety that is reproduced? A. They are precisely the same.

Q. Do any other varieties come up on the burnt district? A. Yes, the aspen poplar, and white birch.

Q. Do you find the aspen as far north as the Banksian pine? A. Yes.

*By the Honorable Mr. Gowan :*

Q. How are they reproduced on the burnt ground? A. Their seeds are more largely distributed. I fancy they exist in the soil already.

*By the Honorable Mr. Sutherland :*

Q. Don't you think they grow from the root as well—that the root does not happen to be burnt? A. Yes, they spring up again from the root, but I have seen large districts covered with the Banksian pine alone and no other tree whatever.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. You have seen the valuable map distributed by the Department of Agriculture in which is laid down the different belts of timber? A. Yes; that is taken from my own map, published in the report of the Geological Survey for 1880.

Q. What trees are found north of the Banksian pine? A. The aspen and the rough-bark poplar grow north of the Banksian pine and also spruce and tamarac.

Q. Supposing a fire occurred in the neighborhood of this line of demarcation extending into the other trees you have mentioned, would it result in their entire destruction, or has their seed some provision by which the trees are reproduced? A. The seeds of the other trees blow about every year and great numbers of them I daresay become covered with decaying leaves, and they are blown into cracks and recesses where a greater or less number will germinate after a fire.

Q. I believe it is also true that forest fires do not burn with that fierceness through a poplar grove that they will through a pine forest of this description? A. No; fire would not run at all except in dry weather in poplar and birch forests, or amongst any deciduous trees.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. Is this Banksian pine valuable for lumber? A. Not particularly. It resembles the red pine; it has a coarse, distinct grain and can be used for many purposes, and in England now it would be used for the manufacture of fashionable bedroom furniture.

*By the Honorable Mr. Gowan :*

Q. It is something like the pine of Florida? A. Yes; like the pine of Florida and Georgia which has been used for some years past in England in the manufacture of furniture.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. It would become an article of commerce then? A. Yes.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Is it a slow or a quickly growing tree? A. It grows very rapidly.

Q. Is it one of those trees that you would advise the propagation of in the North-West? A. I think it is the most suitable tree of all the coniferous trees for propagating on the open prairie; it would stand a dry climate.

Q. Could you give the Committee some information how best that could be done? A. I think by taking the cones, scorching them and shaking the seeds out, and planting them at once it could be done.