

FORESTS OF THE YUKON TERRITORY.

By J. Keele, Geological Survey,
Ottawa.

THE following note refers to that portion of the Yukon Territory, situated between the Pelly River on the south, and northward to the McQuestion River.

The forests of this district consist of only about eleven species which attain the dimensions of trees. These are the white spruce (*Picea alba*), the black spruce (*Picea nigra*), the balsam fir (*Abies subalpina*), the balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), the aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), the black pine (*Pinus murrayana*), three species of birch and some species of willow. The varying conditions under which these trees grow greatly affect their size and distribution.

The white spruce is the most widely distributed and the most useful tree in the Yukon Territory. It makes a fair quality of lumber, which is used for various purposes by miners and prospectors. Huge quantities of white spruce are made into cordwood and piled at intervals on the banks of navigable rivers as fuel for steamboats. Thousands of cords in sixteen-foot lengths are floated down the Yukon, Stewart and Klondike rivers every autumn to Dawson to be used as firewood. The white spruce is seen at its best on the islands and alluvial flats of the main rivers, where they form fine groves of merchantable timber, easy of access to the lumberman. The size of its general growth on these flats is from eight to twenty-four inches, and individuals frequently attain a size of thirty inches in diameter at the butt, and logs sixty feet long, with a diameter of one foot at the smaller end, can be obtained. Up the slopes of the valleys, the white spruce, under favourable conditions, will continue to be a very fine forest tree. These conditions are, a sufficient depth of finely-divided loose material, and gentle slopes facing the direction which will allow the trees to receive the maximum amount of sunlight.

During the months of June and July the length of the day