

"but must refer you to the reports of tests made at the United States Navy Yard at Mare Island, in California. *These tests prove it to be stronger than white oak.*"

The size and abundance of this timber are as marvelous as its durability. Captain Lennard, on his way up the Lower Frazer, was astounded at it, and he makes this statement in his volume on British Columbia: "A little below Westminster, an extensive steam saw-mill has been established, which deals in a very summary way with the gigantic timber of these regions. I have alluded to the size attained by the fir in this part of the world. My readers, will, however, hardly be prepared to hear that a novice, having laid a wager to cut through a selected specimen with an axe in three weeks' time, actually found himself, in spite of his most strenuous efforts, unable to accomplish his task. However incredible this may appear, it is an undoubted fact."

The Hon. S. Garfield, Delegate to Congress from Washington Territory, in a letter to Samuel Wilkeson under date of April 2, 1870, gives certainly a startling measure of the magnitude and abundance of this timber, but which will be accepted without question wherever this eloquent man of the Pacific coast is known. He says: "The size of the fir trees, and the numbers growing upon given areas, in good timber districts, is almost incredible to residents upon the Atlantic slope of the continent. Trees often measure 320 feet in length, as I have several times demonstrated, more than two-thirds of which are free from limbs. Fifty, sixty, and sometimes as high as eighty good timber trees grow upon an acre of ground. In the summer of 1868, I had two parties out cruising for timber. The leaders of these parties were old and experienced lumbermen. One of these parties found a 'berth' of timber, covering about 3,000 acres, which was so very fine that they took extra pains to ascertain the facts in regard to it in order to satisfy me of the truth of their report. They examined the forest carefully, and selecting an average tree cut it down. That tree measured 42 inches in diameter at the stump, and at the first limb, 200 feet above, it measured 22 inches—the top or branching portion measuring 70 feet more. It was then ascertained by measurement and count that there was an average of 80 such trees to the acre throughout this berth. I do not give this statement as an illustration of the size of our trees; for these were by no means large ones; they were of the size, however, most convenient for milling purposes, and their great length, free from limbs, and their number per acre, make the average production very much more than is usually obtained. Our loggers work no 'berth' of [fir] timber producing less than