

ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES OF YUKON—CAIRNES

east. However throughout all the southern portion of the territory, trees grow on mostly all the valley floors up to an elevation ranging in most places from 3,500 to 4,000 feet above sea-level, and on the mountain sides to practically the same height. Timber line is, however, characteristically not so high at the lower as at the upper ends of the valleys, and in places does not reach above 3,000 feet. In the valleys of Yukon, Lewes, White, Donjek, Teslin, Big Salmon and Little Salmon rivers and in the vicinity of Kluane, Sekulmun, Aishihik and other of the larger lakes, as well as at occasional other points, groves occur where the trees are tall and stand close together, but these are the exception. In general about one-third of southern Yukon is forested, the southern and western slopes being much better timbered than the northern and eastern hillsides. In this portion of the territory there is thus sufficient timber in most localities to meet the ordinary requirements of mining and allied industries for many years to come. In the immediate vicinity of Yukon and Lewes rivers, however, wood suitable for fuel is becoming somewhat scarce, due to the fact that the fuel used by the steamers plying between Whitehorse and Dawson, has, in the past, been almost exclusively wood obtained along the river banks. A relatively small amount of coal has, however, also been consumed.

As the Arctic ocean is approached, the forest growth becomes gradually less, so that by the time Porcupine river is reached, where crossed by the Yukon-Alaska boundary, at latitude $67^{\circ}25'$, only about one-fourth or less of the district is forested. The growth is there also noticeably more sparse than along the Yukon, and trees seldom occur at an elevation exceeding 2,000 feet above sea-level. Along the Arctic, very little timber of any kind occurs, the forest being represented by rare patches of small trees and shrubs along occasional stream courses.

The forest members of Yukon consists mainly of fourteen species that obtain the dimensions of trees. These include:—

White spruce.—*Picea canadensis* BSP.

Black spruce.—*Picea mariana* BSP.

Alpine fir.—*Abies lasiocarpa* Nutt.

Black pine.—*Pinus contorta*, Loudon.