

given them better access to markets, will give, it is stated, timber of a size larger than most yet exported.

Geo. E. Lumsden, Esq.,
Assistant Secretary.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) R. W. PHIPPS,
Clerk of Forest Preservation,
Ontario.

Enclosure 6.

Government House, Victoria,
August 30, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a Minute of my Executive Council, dated the 16th instant, upon the subject of the reported proximate exhaustion of forests within the Dominion referred to in a Despatch of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated November 21st, 1883.

The Hon. the Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Canada.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLEMENT F. CORNWALL,
Lieutenant-Governor.

REPORT of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the 16th August 1884.

THE Committee of Council have had under consideration a Despatch from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, dated 21st. November 1883, addressed to his Excellency the Governor-General of the Dominion, concerning the reported proximate exhaustion of forests within the Dominion, a copy of which was forwarded to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, and referred to the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, who reports as follows :—

The southern and western portion of British Columbia is a densely-wooded country, both mountains and plains being covered with thick and stately forests. To the north and east there is less timber and of an inferior quality.

The prevailing timber throughout is coniferous, and of different varieties.

The forests of British Columbia of economic value embrace an area situated between the Cascade range of mountains and the sea coast, and extending from the 49° to the 55° parallel of north latitude, together with Vancouver and adjacent islands and the Queen Charlotte Group.

The Douglas pine, or red fir (*A. Douglasii*),—which is esteemed the most valuable timber for masts, spars, and lumber, and of which it has been written : “ So closely do the trees stand, and withal so tall and straight, that the united navy yards of the world might draw thence their supplies for years without more than partially exhausting these spacious and majestic forests,”—covers that portion of the above area between the southern boundary of the province and about a parallel drawn through the northern extremity of Vancouver's Island.

North of this line, including Queen Charlotte Islands, the Douglas fir does not occur in large areas. Here yellow cypress, red and white cedar, and white pine predominate, and are perhaps of little less commercial value than Douglas fir.

The geographical formation of the coast presents numerous and far-reaching inlets, which afford access to the forests and greatly facilitate lumbering.

The interior of the province is but sparsely timbered. The eastern portion, watered by the Columbia and Kootenay rivers and their tributaries, contain large areas of timber of great commercial value.

In refutation of the assertion that Canadian forests are within six years of exhaustion, so far as this province is concerned an extract may be quoted from the Government prize essay of 1872, by the late A. C. Anderson :—

“ The forests of British Columbia are productive of an *inexhaustible* supply of timber of the most serviceable kind.”

Exported and milled timber have so far made no diminution in the available supply.

The Committee concur in the Ministers' Report, and recommend that a copy of this Minute, if approved, (be forwarded ?) to the Hon. the Secretary of State for Canada, with a request that it be transmitted to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Certified.

(Signed) JNO. ROBSON,
Clerk Executive Council.