

SPRUCE. This tree is so multiplied in New-Brunswick, as to constitute a third part of the forests with which the Province is so uninterruptedly covered, and nowhere is it found of larger size or finer quality. It often attains from seventy to eighty feet in height, and from eighteen to twenty-four inches in diameter.

The distinguishing properties of the wood of the Black Spruce, are, strength, lightness, and elasticity. It furnishes as fine yards and topmasts as any in the world, and for these it has been long and extensively used. By many, the wood of the black spruce is preferred to that of the white pine for flooring; but its great value arises from its furnishing the Spruce Deals of commerce, which now constitute one of the largest and most valuable exports of New-Brunswick. These deals are of the uniform thickness of three inches, not less than twelve feet in length, and nine inches in width. The most usual dimensions are nine and eleven inches, in breadth, and lengths of twelve, fourteen, sixteen, eighteen, and twenty-one feet. Spruce battens are twelve feet long, seven inches in width, and two and a half inches in thickness. The manufacture of Spruce Deals commenced in New-Brunswick in 1819, and has since been steadily increasing. In 1851, there were five hundred and eighty-four Saw Mills in the Province, driven either by steam or water power, and since then the number has been continually on the increase. The extent and value of the exports of pine and spruce timber and deals, will be seen by reference to the tables hereafter.

The next tree in the order of value, is the **AMERICAN LARCH** which is known under a variety of names. The French Canadians call it *Epinette Rouge*; the descendants of the Dutch in America, have called it *Tamarack*. It is most generally designated in New-Brunswick by its Indian name, *Hackmatac*. In the northern portion of the Province, and on the Gulf Shore, it is sometimes styled *Cypress*, but much more frequently *Juniper*, to neither of which designations has it the slightest claim.

The American Larch, like that of Europe, is a magnificent tree, with a straight, slender trunk, eighty feet or more in height, and upwards of two feet in diameter. Trees of this size are most abundant in the north-eastern portion of the