

These, with the exception of the small firs, which we do not consider as individually of great importance, comprise our chief woods adjacent to tide water.

Our interior woods, though of great value to British Columbia, are too far from the ocean to be brought over here successfully. The most important of these are the Western soft pine, Western larch. They are the important woods of southern interior of the Province.

Western Soft Pine.

Western soft, or white pine, as it is sometimes called, is a tree of slow, even growth, producing wood of fine grain and quality. It is soft, light, strong in proportion to its weight, works very easily and smoothly without splintering or splitting, and readily takes and holds paints, stains, and varnishes. It seasons unusually well, benign free from warping or checking, and once seasoned, holds its shape without shrinking or swelling. It is of a soft, satiny texture, and is so similar to the famous Eastern white pine in appearance that it is difficult to tell them apart. The tree grows to large size, and its lumber can be obtained in wide, clear stock. It is very popular in Eastern Canada, on the prairies, and in the United States, where it is largely used in buildings of every kind for joists, rafters, sheathing, studding, shiplap, &c. In interior finish it gives splendid service. It comes from the planers without knife marks or fuzz and with a smooth surface which can be given a high finish with less labour than most woods.

Western larch is the largest and most massive of North American larches, growing to a height of 100 ft. to 180 ft., with a diameter of 3ft to 4ft.

THIS IS CANADA'S CASE TOO

The most immediate thing is the protection of the forests from fire. There are some 245,000,000 acres of forest lands in the United States which contain cull or second-growth timber, or which are more or less completely stocked with young trees. This is nearly double the acreage of our remaining virgin forest.

These 245,000,000 acres of second growth and young timber may well represent a forest asset of the United States of greater value than our remaining virgin forests.

Upon their protection rests very largely our ability to bridge over the gap when virgin timber ceases to be an important factor in the yearly cut of forest products. Their protection from fire, in my judgment, the most important single forestry problem before the United States today.

Q. Can trees be successfully grown on the bare prairies? What made the prairies treeless?

A. Certain species of trees as Russian Poplar and Manitoba Maple can be easily and rapidly grown on nearly all portions of the prairies. It is generally believed that fires are in the main responsible for the denuding of the southern prairies. With the coming of settlement and the subduing of prairie fires, so common in the Indian days, tree growth has rapidly encroached on what was formerly bare prairie. Several U. S. States, once a dreary windswept plain, has been "made

over," commercially and æsthetically by the planting of shelter belts.

Q. Are many of the lumber or paper companies planting trees to replace the timber they cut?

A. Only a very few, because one year's forest fires destroy more grown-up timber than any conceivable amount of planting could replace. In one timber fire last year, enough wood was destroyed to have required for its replacement 14 million little trees at an expense of \$200,000 and a wait of sixty years. The great problem for Canada is not tree planting but forest fire prevention.

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