

the heart, the remains of the dead branches that fell off in the tree's youth. My experience teaches me that white pine is of slow growth. The smallest tree that ought to be taken for saw-logs or timber should be at least fourteen inches at the butt. This would take not less than fifty years to produce, and such a tree as I before described, as much as one hundred and fifty. I have a white pine tree near my house that has not gained more than three inches in twenty years, although it is a good rich soil, perhaps too rich. Large groves of pine are usually found on poor, light soil. I think consequently that the bulk of the pine found under such circumstances, is apt to be punky or defective for the want, so to speak, of nourishment. The best pine is usually found on stronger soil mixed with hardwood. It is unpleasant to contemplate the want of this valuable timber. Once gone it is gone forever, and cannot be reproduced in our or our children's time, as unlike mineral or other products of the soil, the quantity produced from these is only limited by the amount of labour employed in producing them. Perhaps, however, time will find a substitute in some artificial wood, or employ metal to take its place. Hardwoods, to which I will briefly refer presently, that were once almost discarded, except for burning, are coming largely into use in consequence of the improved woodworking machinery, that has been devised of late years, making the work of preparing and completing joiner work much more simple and easy than it was to do the same thing in pine (when I served my time over 50 years ago, and when flooring, mortising, tenoning, striking mouldings out of dry spruce with hard knots was done by hand). The facilities also for reaching hardwoods and getting them to market will help to make up for the loss of this favourite material, which I hope is yet a long way off. I might say before closing this part of my subject that the magnificent cedar of British Columbia will no doubt largely take the place of white pine for joiner work. The Douglas fir will be a valuable substitute for our coarser woods, when they become scarce and high in price, that is if the railroads moderate rates coming east so as to come into competition with each other. It will, however, I am afraid, be some time before either takes place.

The last of the soft wood that I will refer to is the basswood, linden or *bois blanc*. It is usually found mixed with other woods, is a handsome tree growing tall and straight and often found from two to three feet in diameter, and sheds its leaves annually. It produces lumber that is much used by carriage-makers, furniture manufacturers and joiners for panels, &c. This wood, when green, readily absorbs water and if put into the river to drive with other logs, many soon find their way to the bottom and are lost. Those that reach their destination lose much of their value for fine work by reason of water stain, &c. The true way to manufacture basswood is to draw it direct from the stump to the saw-mill when possible. The white wood produced under such circumstances is capable of a fine finish and when work is properly done, shell-lacked and oiled, is almost in appearance equal to satinwood. The common or red portion of the log is mostly used for packing cases. I am not aware of any quantity of it being exported, most of it being produced in small mills for home use.

Of the deciduous or leaf-shedding trees, the first I will refer to is the beech, a handsome shade tree with smooth bark and bearing a small triangular nut, not of an unpleasant taste. The wood is used for various purposes, such as carpenters' planes, shoemakers' lasts, bobbins and shuttles for cotton and woollen factories, and largely for firewood, as it makes excellent fuel.

Birch, of which there are several species, principal among them being the large or yellow birch, is much used for furniture, by wheelwrights, for stair building, for hand-rails and balusters, and in ship building, forming a portion of the frame, flooring and keelson, being durable when kept wet. It is also largely exported to Europe as square timber. It is a tree of considerable size, often reaching 20 to 30 inches in diameter. It is also a favourite firewood.

The white birch or *bouleau*, has within a few years become of some value when found within easy reach, having been turned to account for the manufacture of spools and spool wood for thread-makers, the white part of the wood only being used. It is made into squares varying from one inch, in eighths, to say two inches, and three or four feet long. Many ship loads have been shipped to England and Scotland the past few years, principally from the lower St. Lawrence. The red or heart being useless to the