

the growth is confined to black spruce and tamarack of no great size. Throughout the more southern region described by Mr. Low, there is a good deal of wood which could be used in the manufacture of pulp.

Mr. Von Hamerstein had travelled through quite a large part of southern Athabaska. Much of it had been burnt, but in other parts there was much fine timber. West of Fort McMurray he had seen trees that would make 1,000 feet of lumber. He had taken out strips 64 feet long out of which he had cut walking beams for work upon which he was engaged. From the mouth of the Peace River at Lake Athabaska to Vermillion there is some good timber. Timber of the same quality ranges north for quite a distance. There will be a range of timber four or five miles wide and then muskeg or prairie.

Mr. E. Stewart, who has from the first been one of the chief moving spirits in the work of the Canadian Forestry Association, and may indeed be called the "father" of the Association, has had exceptional opportunities of examining the forests of the north and although his reports have been read by most of the members of the Association, and extracts from them have already been published in *The Forestry Journal*, his evidence before the Select Committee so well summarizes what is known of the timber resources of northwestern Canada that it is repeated here almost as he gave it before the Committee. He said that the principal tree between the Rocky Mountains and the plains is the spruce, mostly the white spruce, and from its position near the prairie there is no doubt that it will be more sought after to meet the increasing demands from that quarter. The country along the upper waters north of the Saskatchewan and the Athabaska and Peace Rivers is partly prairie and partly wood. The varieties of timber are principally aspen and balsam poplar, the former predominating, and white spruce. The poplars as one goes north seem to increase in size and height, and as one approaches Lesser Slave Lake and between this lake and the crossing of the Peace River. Below the junction of the Smoky they grow very clean and straight trees, not over a foot or fourteen inches, but reaching a height of 17 or 18 feet, making excellent building timber, as well as fencing and fuel. In some parts there are stretches of good spruce well adapted for lumbering purposes. There has so far been but little destruction from fire in this quarter. The land is mostly level, soil excellent, and if the summer frosts do not prevent it, the country will begin soon to settle up and there will be an ample supply of timber for local uses, if not for export to the adjoining prairie regions. Mr. Stewart explained that spruce suitable for commercial purposes grows to the Arctic Sea. He was astonished to find that the limit of tree growth extended as far north as it does.