

the wood of the species of *Picea* from that of any other conifers.

This wood is more subject to cracking, than that of the white pine, and is liable to shrink when not perfectly dried. It is, however, much employed for flooring, on account of its greater hardness, and is largely exported from Quebec in the form of planks. It is also esteemed for its lightness and elasticity, for which quality it is employed for the ship-yards. All the houses which, in the country parts of Canada are made of hewn logs, and are known as log-houses, are constructed of white spruce, which is also employed for the frame-work of steeples, of bridges, etc. The bark of the tree furnishes curved timbers, or knees, as they are called, which are used for ship-building, although inferior to those furnished by the tamarack (*Larix Americana*). The aborigines make use of the tough rootlets, previously macerated in water, to sew the seams of their bark canoes.

The pyramidal form of this tree, the regularity and number of its branches, and its abundant foliage, make the white spruce one of the best of ornamental evergreen trees. It moreover adapts itself to almost any soil, not too solid and compact, so that it is one of the Canadian trees best fitted for plantations. The readiness with which the white spruce throws out auxilliary buds renders it fit for pruning, and enables us to make of it excellent hedges, which may advantageously replace these of hawthorn.

This sketch of the white spruce would be incomplete if we did not mention a parasitic insect, which frequents it, and causes the small galls which are often seen upon this tree. They may be observed in the spring-time at the ends of the young branches, where they are dark red in color, and resemble in miniature the fruit cones. We met them for the first time at the end of May, 1863, on the island of Orleans, and again some time later near the Château Bigot, in the rear of Quebec. Baron Osten-Sacken, after having examined the specimens which we sent him, informs us that these galls are produced by a species of *Aphis*, hitherto unknown to science.

PICEA NIGRA.

The *Picea nigra* is even more widely spread, in the north of America, than the preceding species, for it is found farther to the northward, and beyond the Saguenay, in elevated localities,