

tree, prickly ash, sassafras, and flowering dog-wood, which are found only in a small area in the southern part of Ontario; (4) a western group, consisting of the ash-leaved maple, bur-oak, cotton-wood, and green ash, which are scattered sparingly over the prairie and partially-wooded regions west of Red River and Lake Winnipeg.

The finest timber of the second group within the limits of Canada is to be met with along the east side of Lake Huron in the counties of Lambton, Huron and Bruce, where the button-wood, elm, maple, yellow birch, cherry, bass-wood and hemlock attain a height of one hundred feet and upwards. Although the Ottawa valley has produced more white pine timber than any other region in the Dominion, the largest and finest trees grow on the sandy soils of the counties bordering the northern sides of Lake Erie and of the western part of Lake Ontario, where extensive and splendid pineries stood when these regions were first invaded by the white man. In the Northwest Territories, the largest trees are the elms along the rivers (which, however, do not extend far north) and the rough-barked poplars, which, even as far north as the Laird and the lower Mackenzie, have trunks five feet in diameter. Along Athabasca River the author had seen spruces which measured ten and twelve feet in girth.

The distribution of our forest trees affords us one of the most obvious tests of climate, and although it may not be more reliable than that of the smaller plants, it is more noticeable by the common observer. In the older provinces of Canada the settlers are often guided to a great extent in their selection of land by the kinds of trees it supports, a thrifty growth of beech and sugar-maple, for instance, being generally considered a good sign; but such tests must necessarily be only of local application. In the prairie region, timber may be entirely absent from the finest soil, while the least hardy trees of the west flourish in the stiff clay-banks or among the stones along the rivers on account of the moisture and heat derived from the water.

The map which has been referred to is useful in defining the extent of country over which each kind of timber was