

Forest wealth of Canada.

The sea or black spruce of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is largely used in the frames of ships and when well salted is said to be almost as strong and durable as oak. I have seen a Nova Scotia barque with part of her frame exposed, as sound as the day it was put up, after eight years of service in many climes and storms. The spruce is also the favourite wood of pulpmakers, to be manufactured into paper, though other woods to some extent are used, the young trees being preferred. Vast quantities are cut down to supply the demand which is increasing very rapidly. Much of this material is taken to the United States in its natural state, where it enters free of import duty. Our government, I think unwisely, removed the export duty that existed until a year or two ago, thus hastening the denuding of our forests, and robbing the country of one of its principal sources of wealth.

The next in order of this class is the tamarack or larch, sometimes known as hackmatack. It is deciduous in character, and though it has fallen in value of late years owing to the decline of ship-building in Quebec, yet it is an excellent wood, being little inferior to oak for strength and durability, and much more easily worked. Years ago I have sold it in Quebec for 25 cents a cubic foot, while to-day it is difficult to get for the same average quality 12 to 14 cents, and that for only a limited quantity. None of it is exported. What is made is principally used for sills, under plank sidewalks, and in the construction of a few small vessels and scows that are built for local purposes. The smaller trees are mostly made into railroad ties and cordwood which is considered an excellent steam producing fuel on account of its inflammability. Tamarack knees made out of the root of the tree are valuable to export.

The red or Norway pine, another of the coniferous trees, is often found scattered with white pine, largely on the Ottawa and its tributaries; it has much thicker sap than the other pines; it is a valuable timber, strong and elastic, much used in this country for flooring, and the frames of railroad cars; in England largely for flooring, joists and ship planking.

We now come to what every lumberman considers the king of the forest in grandeur, usefulness or value, the white or cork pine, or *pinus strobus* of the scientists—the tree of all others that serves more purposes than we can enumerate. Among them the tiny match, the mast for the great ship, the frame of the sweet sounding piano, and wherever a soft, easy working wood is wanted either in the arts, the workshop or the factory, there it is to be found. As an article of commerce it far surpasses in value and quantity that of any other wood, if not of all sorts put together. It supplies more freight for vessels coming into the St. Lawrence than any other commodity; it gives more employment to wage-earning men than any industry in our country, except agriculture. It employs more capital in manipulating it, from the time the men leave for the woods in the fall to make, haul and drive the logs and timber to the mills—the building of mills for sawing, the construction of barges and steamboats to convey it to the market, as well as the large amount of freight furnished to railroads, the erection of factories to convert it to the various uses to which it is put. It is safe to say that the value of the output of pine lumber alone, produced in Canada, is at least \$25,000,000, or two and a half times as much as that of any other manufacturing industry, and when we consider that 60 per cent is paid for labour and that nearly all to men representing a large population, you can readily see how important it is, either by legislation or otherwise, to protect and conserve the source of this great factor in our prosperity. How can we extol sufficiently this monarch of the forest that we are so much indebted to? The tree when growing in the open country is of little or no value except as a shade tree, its lateral branches reaching almost to the ground, and it is in the dense forest that we have to look for the great tree of commerce, where nature acts the pruner. There the branches decay and drop off, the trunk shoots upward high above its neighbours seeking that which it was deprived of below, light and air. By this action of nature we get our clear pine, so much prized by mechanics. As the branches drop off the wood grows over them and we get the stately tree carrying its size well up and often attaining 60 or 70 feet to the branches. I once saw a tree that measured 40 inches in diameter, 70 feet from the ground, without a knot or defect visible in this space. Naturally, however, it is very rare to get a log, or the best of timber without finding knots or defects as you get near