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Our Yukon, its Forest Wealth and Future Development

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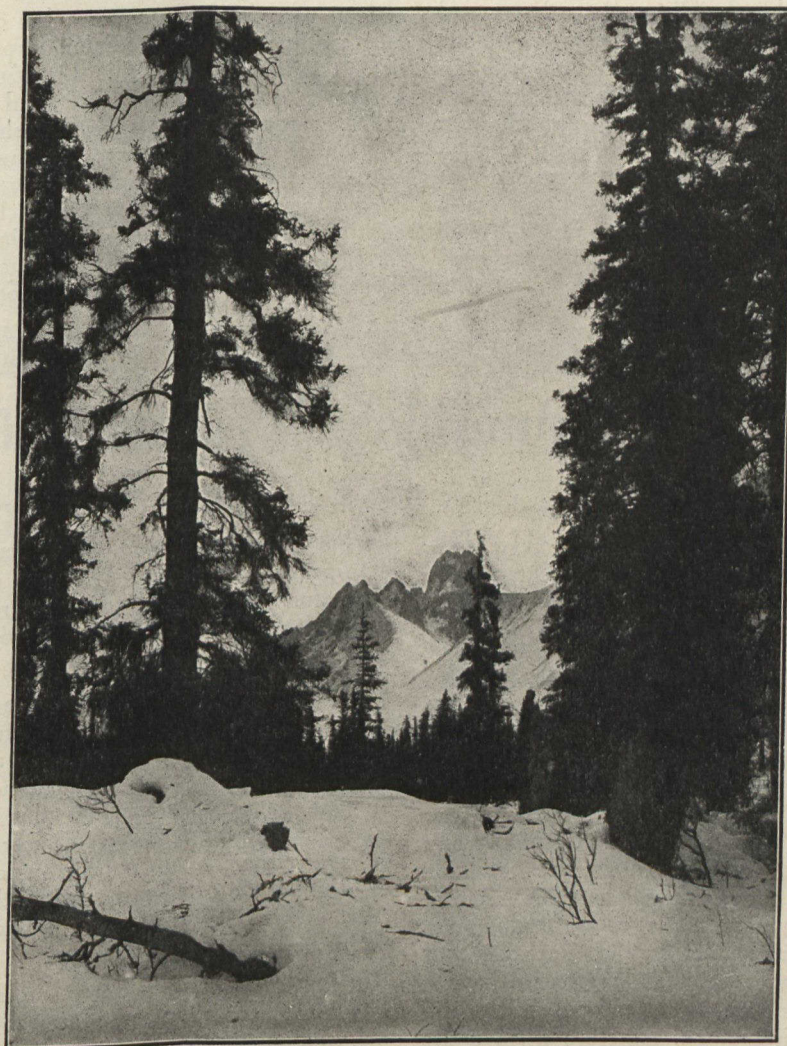
The products of the forests in the Yukon Territory have played no mean part in the development of that district. The wooded areas are of much greater extent than any person unfamiliar with Northern Canada and the territory of the Yukon has any conception of. Naturally the growth is slow. The number of years it has taken the trees to reach a size that would be useful is staggering. One wonders whether a miner, prospector or trapper ever thinks when he first puts his axe into a growing eight-inch tree in the North these days that that tree entered on its career sometime about the date of the coronation of Queen Victoria.

The principal forest trees are white and black spruce, balsam poplar and birch. These occur on the mountain slopes up to eighteen hundred feet and sometimes up to twenty-eight hundred feet above the rivers and lakes. The white spruce is the most valuable tree and furnishes good timber for building and mining purposes. The best groves of this tree are found on the islands or on the alluvial flats along the rivers, but good specimens have been observed on the slopes of the hills to a height of two thousand feet above the rivers. There is a marked deterioration both in size and appearance of the spruce as the more northerly branches of the river are approached.

The balsam fir occurs only on the valley slopes mixed with spruce, beginning at an elevation of twelve hundred feet above the rivers and continuing upward to the limit of the trees. On the slopes of the Ogilvie range, however, the balsam disappears entirely.

Well Timbered Valleys

On the Pelley River between the Macmillan and the Lewes the Northern exposures are thickly wooded. There are numerous groves close to the river, with good spruce up to two feet in diameter. Spruce of the same size is also found along



In the Heart of the Yukon.

the upper Pelly, but not so plentiful. In mouth. The breadth of valuable timber different parts of the territory one sees, along the valey is about half a very occasionally, a grove of jackpines, mile in many parts. The spruce It is considered that the best timber in is straight, tall, and averages about the Yukon Territory is situated on the twenty inches in diameter and some have Macmillan river, a tributary of the Pelly, a diameter of about three feet. These The valley of this stream is well timbered trees carry the size well up, and are cap- for about one hundred miles from its able of furnishing five twelve-foot logs