

observed, likewise of the same layer in different parts of its circumference; the former difference depends upon the nature of the season in which each individual layer is formed, the latter upon local circumstances, accidents to branches, &c.

This is the only known rule by which the age of a tree may be determined.

Ten trees were examined with the following result—

Red spruce	-	-	9	inches diameter = 43 rings (years).
Black „	-	-	$9\frac{1}{2}$	„ „ 51 „ „
„ „	-	-	$9\frac{3}{4}$	„ „ 54 „ „
Red „	-	-	$9\frac{1}{4}$	„ „ 54 „ „
„ „	-	-	10	„ „ 58 „ „
White pine	-	-	9	„ „ 58 „ „
„ „	-	-	16	„ „ 72 „ „
Red spruce	-	-	16	„ „ 43 „ „
„ „	-	-	13	„ „ 44 „ „
„ „	-	-	12	„ „ 47 „ „

The above were taken from within a few hundred feet of each other, but these, however, would probably be a fair average.

The difference in growth could well be accounted for by the different degrees of shelter.

(Signed) W. A. HENDRY.

Halifax, July 1884.

Enclosure 5.

Government House, Toronto,
September 3, 1884.

SIR,

ADVERTING to the request contained in your Despatch of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to enclose herewith for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the information of the applicant, Mr. R. D. Lyons, M.P., (1) a map showing the proportion of forests yet standing throughout that portion of Ontario south of the Ottawa and French rivers, and (2) a copy of a report specially prepared by Mr. R. W. Phipps, Clerk of Forest Preservation, Ontario, upon the subject of the reported proximate exhaustion of forests as far as the question relate to the Dominion of Canada.

15 Aug.
1884.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Ontario.

(Signed) JOHN BEVERLY ROBINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

SIR,

Toronto, August 15, 1884.

IN answer to the inquiries contained in the letter of R. D. Lyons, Esq., M.P., Dublin, which, accompanied by letters from the Earl of Derby and the Under Secretary of State for Canada, has been forwarded to me, I beg to reply that—

There are in the province of Ontario 18,000 square miles of land known as timber limits, that is land on which lumbermen have purchased the right to cut lumber for a certain period, renewable yearly, and on which lumber, when cut, they also pay certain dues to Government in proportion to its amount. Some of these limits are but freshly entered upon, having only been given out last year, others have been held for longer periods, and some for many years. There exist, however, no data by which to form an exact idea of how long it would take, at the present rate of consumption, to exhaust the timber of these lands.

Concerning the amount of timber lands possessed by Government on which no license to cut has yet been given, I would say that the timber limits sold last year extended as far north as 15 miles beyond Lake Nipissing. North of this point, and extending east to Sturgeon River, and west to Michipicoten River, is a tract of country which there is reason to believe from various reports of those who have travelled across it, contains about 20,000 square miles of forest, possessing much valuable and merchantable timber.

Concerning the older and more settled parts of Ontario, an idea may be gained of the amount of forest left standing therein from a map which I enclose, forming part of a Forestry Report sent in by myself to the Ontario Government last year. In the darker shaded portions much of the country is yet held under license by lumbermen, and forms part of the 18,000 square miles already referred to. Throughout the lighter shaded