

About two-thirds of the surface is covered with soil varying from one inch to thirty inches in depth.

In the year 1887, the island, which was then beautifully wooded, was swept by a fire which completely destroyed all vegetation, except a few straggling pines at the water's edge. Those who saw the island during and after the fire, say that the desolation wrought was so complete that it was scarcely possible that any young plants or even seeds could have survived the intense heat. Since that time no new timber has been cut, no domestic animals have been on the island, and with the exception of a few hares, deer-mice and squirrels, there apparently has been nothing to interfere with the development of the smallest herb.

This situation seemed to present a problem which, if worked out, might cast some light upon the kind of vegetation which under similar conditions—of climate, soil, non-interference, etc.—might reasonably be expected to develop in a period of eighteen years, and with a view to the solution of this problem a somewhat careful investigation has been carried on for two consecutive summers.

Altogether there were found on the island forty-seven different varieties of trees and shrubs, and a number of these were evidently new comers. The following is a comparative statement of the height and circumference of a few of the largest trees in 1904 and 1905 :

	1904		1905	
	Height feet.	Circ. inches.	Height feet.	Circ. inches.
<i>Populus tremuloides</i> , American Aspen-Poplar	35	12	37	14
<i>Betula papyrifera</i> , Paper or Canoe Birch	30	19	32	18
<i>Prunus Pennsylvanica</i> , Wild Red Cherry	29	16	30.5	16
<i>Pinus Strobus</i> , White Pine	22	13	24	13
<i>Acer rubrum</i> , Soft Red Maple	22	9	22	13
<i>Quercus rubra</i> , Red Oak, Black Oak....	20	14	20	16
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> , American Arbor-vitæ, White Cedar	20	14	20.6	16
<i>Pinus resinosa</i> , Red Pine	19	11	10.5	13
<i>Larix Americana</i> , American Larch, Tamarack	16	8	17.5	9.5
<i>Quercus alba</i> , White Oak	15	8	16.5	9.5
<i>Abies balsamea</i> , Balsam Fir	13.5	9	15	9.5
<i>Tsuga Canadensis</i> , Hemlock Spruce ..	11	5	11	8

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