

The wood is unusually clear and free from defects and can be obtained in large dimensions. It is even-grained, long-fibred, easily worked, non-resinous, odourless, tasteless, flexible and resonant. It does not warp or split and is strong and light. The colour is nearly white.

During the course of the great war it was found that this wood excelled that of any other in the world for the construction of aeroplanes. Its unsurpassed qualities and abundant quantities were soon recognized and a large trade in this connection was quickly established with the Imperial Munitions Board. It is admirably adapted also for box and cooperage manufacture, especially when foodstuffs are to be encased. Its resonant qualities also fit it especially for the manufacture of piano sounding boards and stringed instruments.

In the forest of Central British Columbia are found nearly all the trees common to the great Pacific slope belt, except in those parts lying north of the Arctic-Pacific divide and east of the Rocky mountains. Excellent specimens of the four famous species referred to in the preceding paragraphs are found in these certain sections. The spruces, however, of which there are several species, comprise nearly half the available saw-mill material of this region and are the most widely distributed. Nearly nine-tenths of the total supply is made up of six principal varieties of trees but there are some ten varieties in all that have an extensive supply of mill material. These principal species in the order of their extent are: spruce, red cedar, balsam, hemlock, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, yellow cypress, cottonwood, yellow pine, and white pine. With the exception of the cottonwood they are all evergreens.

The spruce include four varieties, namely, Sitka, Engelmann, white and Sitka spruce grows on the coast only. The bulk of the spruce woods of Central British Columbia are composed of the white and Engelmann varieties which are very similar to each other. Engelmann spruce is frequently called mountain, Rocky mountain or western white spruce. Black spruce is small and stunted, usually growing in cold wet lands and is commonly called swamp spruce.

Only one species of cedar, the famous red, is found west of the prairies. It is confined to the coast and interior wet belt regions of British Columbia. The balsam or balsam fir is widely distributed throughout Central British Columbia. Its wood is largely used for the manufacture of pulp but when sawn into lumber makes a finished product of fair quality. Its winter buds are small, covered with resin and not pointed, while those of the Douglas fir are pointed and free from resin. Two species of hemlock occur, the great western and a small tree, the black or mountain hemlock.

The lodgepole pine, also known as black pine, scrub pine, shore pine and western jackpine, has a very large range and is found in all parts of Central British Columbia. In dense stands occurring in the eastern sections it develops tall, straight trunks but the coast trees are shorter and have branches extending all the way down the stem. Douglas fir grows to perfection on Vancouver island and the adjacent mainland coast but is found in Central British Columbia throughout most of the areas drained by the Fraser, Nechanko, Bellakula and Canoe rivers. Its northern limit is approximately latitude 55.

The yellow cypress is confined to the coast districts. This tree is also commonly known as the yellow cedar, Alaskan cypress and the Nootka cypress. It grows in association with the Sitka spruce and western red cedar and is often mistaken for the cedar.