

The peculiarities in the outline of the northward limit of the white cedar and other species of trees, may throw some light on questions as to the direction from which they have migrated or been dispersed. In some cases which the author has studied, the trees appear to have reached the most northern limit possible. For example, in its most northern range, the first tender leaves and shoots of the black ash are blighted almost every year by the spring frosts; the trees are of small size or stunted in height, and only occasionally bear seed. Sir John Richardson mentions that, on the barren grounds, outlying patches of dying spruces were sometimes met with far out from the verge of the main forest, and that he saw no evidence of young trees springing up beyond the general line of trees; from which he infers that the latter is retreating southward. A similar condition is said to exist in Siberia.

In tracing the northern limits of several of the trees as laid down on the author's map, it would be observed that the northward variations from the general direction usually corresponded with depressions in the country, while the southward curves occurred where the elevations were greatest. The height-of-land dividing the waters of the St. Lawrence from those of Hudson Bay has a general parallelism with the northern limits of many of the species; but as the watershed is not marked by any great elevation or by a ridge, the circumstance referred to may be owing simply to the accident of its trend coinciding with the average course of the isothermal lines.

The author divides the trees of the Dominion east of the Rocky Mountains into four groups in regard to geographical distribution, namely: (1) A northern group, including the white and black spruces, larch, Banksian pine, balsam-fir, aspen, balsam-poplar, canoe birch, willows and alder,—these cover the vast territory from the northern edge of the forests down to about the line at which the white pine begins; (2) a central group of about forty species, occupying the belt of country from the white-pine line to that of the button-wood; (3) a southern group, embracing the button-wood, black walnut, the hickories, chestnut, tulip