

THE WOODS AND MARKETS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Continued from page 677)

Sitka Spruce.

We now come to Sitka spruce, the best known of our spruces. It is found throughout the Douglas fir region, but is at its best on the north Vancouver Island and north of the fir belt on the Queen Charlotte Islands, particularly on Graham and Moresby Islands of that group. From Graham and Moresby Islands, British Columbia shipped during the war enough Sitka spruce to construct 20,000 aeroplanes. Your timber research men here found that Sitka spruce met their requirements of lightness with strength, toughness, even grain and freedom from splitting. When active fighting ceased the Imperial Munitions Board

immediately dropped operations and lost all interest in spruce. Many millions of feet of the cream of our spruce lay in the woods and the water, the latter subject to teredo attack. This large stock of splendid material was ultimately sold at salvage prices to be sawn into lumber and chewed up into pulp to make paper. Possibly this was the best plan of disposal at the moment, but it seems a pity that such quantities of valuable aeroplane stock should be devoted to giving racing results to the public. I venture to think that the Germans or the Japanese would have valued it more highly. The Japanese have been, and are, casting longing eyes on our Sitka spruce.

To-day, much Sitka spruce is going into pulp, but it is also being made into boxes of all sizes. Its freedom from taste or smell makes it invaluable for

containing foodstuffs. It is also being used for framing, sheathing and sub-flooring, while it is more than useful as core stock for veneered articles. It is also one of the most resonant of woods, because the fibres are long and regularly arranged, and is now being used in making piano sounding-boards, cabinet gramophone horns, and I find in Britain that it is in high favour with violin makers. Like most British Columbia woods, it is obtained in large sizes, much of it clear.

Western Hemlock.

Western hemlock is not so well known over here as it is in Canada. It constitutes 18.3 per cent. of our commercial timber, and, like the others, grows to large sizes. Even in Canada, its good qualities and value are not so well known as they will be. To-day, much of our hemlock goes into pulp, for which it is admirably suited, but for ordinary building purposes it is equally as useful as Douglas fir. It has 88 per cent. of the strength of its bigger brother, and is therefore not suitable for the heaviest type of construction, but it makes excellent siding, flooring, ceiling, scantling, inside joists, &c. For sash and door fixtures, turned stock, panelling, etc., it has exceptional merit.

Western hemlock is usually light in colour, and contains no pitch or resin. It dresses to a smooth, satin-like surface, capable of taking a very high polish, and is not easily scratched. I notice that you are fond of enamelled woodwork in this country. Western hemlock takes enamel finish to perfection. Sawn slash-grain, it shows a very handsome figuring. Edge-grain hemlock flooring has proved invaluable. It hardens with age, and we have an instance on the Pacific Coast where it has been down for 50 years and is now so hard that it is difficult to drive a tack in.

Hemlock weighs dry only 2,240 lb. per 1,000 ft., as against 2,749 lb. for Douglas fir; an important factor where we have such long railway hauls. Railway companies are using it for car flooring, siding, &c., and find it highly satisfactory.

The Japanese, who use large quantities of our fir and cedar, have become aware of its good qualities, and are now asking for it. Toronto Harbour Commissioners have put seven million feet of our hemlock into Toronto Harbour work in the past few years, and the Dominion Government are using it in construction of part of their big dry docks at Esquimalt, near Victoria, British Columbia. It is also very popular as a box and packing case material. One firm on the Coast is shipping 50,000 hemlock oil cases to Singapore every month. Incidentally, the hemlock bark is very rich in tannic acid, but this industry has not been developed on the Coast.

The Double Economy of BOVRIL

Bovril saves your Food Bills in two ways:

(1) Nothing need be wasted when there's Bovril in the house. All the left-overs which are often thrown away can so easily be made into tasty stews or hashes by adding Bovril.

(2) Bovril has the wonderful power of enabling you to extract from other foods nourishment which would otherwise be wasted.

That is why wise wives economise by using Bovril.

BOVRIL

contains all the goodness of Beef

Laurentide Company

LIMITED

GRAND MERE, QUEBEC

... ..

Manufacturers of

Groundwood Pulp Newsprint Paper

Sulphite Pulp

Cardboard

ONTARIO PAPER CO.

Thorold, Ont.

=====

Manufacturers of

Newsprint Paper