

TIMBER.

No other province of Canada, no country in Europe, and no State in North America, compares with British Columbia in respect to its timber.

There are prairies here and there, valleys free from wood, and many openings in the thickest country, which in the aggregate make many hundred thousand acres of land on which no clearing is required, but near each open spot is a luxuriant growth of wood. The wooded area covers thousands of square miles, and includes forty kinds of timber; and even with a large number of saw-mills with a great daily capacity there is little danger of the depletion of the forest lands to any appreciable extent.

The finest growth is on the coast and Vancouver Island, and in the Gold and Selkirk ranges. Most prominent among these trees is the Douglas fir, a forest giant that sometimes attains a height of three hundred feet, with a base circumference of from thirty to fifty feet. A good average, however, is a stick one hundred and fifty feet clear of limbs and five to six feet in diameter. This timber is the greatest British Columbia tree in so far as commerce is concerned, and in the opinion of many botanists is an admirable wood for pulp purposes. The yellow and red cedar, although not so widely distributed as the larger fir, is quite as valuable, if not more so. The red variety is employed largely for shingle making, the market for this shingle gradually growing in the East. Among the trees which play a prominent part in the commerce of the province are the white spruce, hemlock, white pine, balsam, tamarac, yew, cedar and cottonwood. The maple is also a valuable tree, although not so general as the others mentioned. There is an immense amount of timber suitable for pulp manufacture along the coast, and steps have recently been taken by the Legislature to encourage this industry by setting apart areas of timber lands for the purpose of establishing it in British Columbia.

The approximate number of lumber and shingle mills in operation in the province last year was 116, whose output was about 232,000,000 feet of lumber and 200,000,000 shingles. The capital invested in saw-mills last year—not including the amounts invested in timber limits—was about \$1,000,000.

Despite the number of mills in operation, the supply of timber seems to be inexhaustible, the extreme density of the forest, an acre of which sometimes yields 500,000 feet of lumber, rendering the deforestation slow.

The market for British Columbia timber is becoming world-wide, and vessels from British Columbia carry the sawn product to Great Britain, Australia, Africa, South America, China and Japan, United States and Mexico.

The trees indigenous to the province are as follows: White fir, western white fir, mountain balsam, large-leaved maple, vine maple, red alder, arbutus, western birch, canoe birch, western dogwood, red cedar, American larch, mountain larch, western larch, white spruce, western black spruce, black spruce, white-bark pine, scrub pine, white mountain pine, black pine, yellow pine, western crab-apple, balsam, poplar, cottonwood, aspen, cherry, Douglas fir, western