

wood is very like that of the black and white spruces, and may be used for the same purposes. This was the chief wood used in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the Rocky Mountains westward.

Menzies Spruce—Sitka Spruce

This spruce grows chiefly in the immediate vicinity of the Coast, ranging in British Columbia from the International Boundary north to Alaska. In the southern part of the Province it grows scattered among other trees, but in the north it is relatively much more abundant, growing sometimes in large clumps. Though averaging less in diameter than the Douglas fir, occasional trees of great size are found. Those cut for lumber are, however, seldom more than five or six feet in diameter. No other tree on the West Coast is used for such varied purposes, and as it is easily worked up by machinery there is a great demand for it in the manufacture of doors, window sashes, boxes, shelving and interior finishing. The wood is very white, is elastic, and bends with the grain without splitting, so that it is much used in boat-building, the making of light oars, staves, woodenware, etc. The adaptability of British Columbia spruce has given this wood a reputation in Eastern Canada and the United States which has created a demand for it for use in the better class of buildings. It resists decay for a long time, and, like the Douglas fir, is not attacked by insects. The chief value of the Sitka spruce will, in the near future, be in the manufacture of pulp, for which purpose it is not excelled by any other tree. As soon as pulp mills are established in the vicinity of the large saw-mills, the immense waste entailed by the present method of sawing dimension lumber in British Columbia will be obviated. As the shrinkage is usually very great, it is generally kiln-dried before using, or kept stored away until it is thoroughly