

coast of Vancouver Island, and further north. Sturgeon up to 1,000 pound weight are numerous in the Fraser and large rivers. The surf smelt and common smelt are abundant, and valued for the table. Shad are taken occasionally. Herring is abundant, and both lake and brook trout on the mainland.

There are scores of men in the fishing trade of England and Scotland who struggle year after year for an uncertain percentage, who, in British Columbia, would find competency in a few years' working, and hundreds who are no richer at the end of December than they were at the beginning of January, who would experience a very different condition of life on the coast of British Columbia.

These coasts afford wide fields for occupation and dispense reward with less niggard hand than in the older home where every loaf has many claimants. There is no rent to pay, no leave to ask to run a boat ashore. The land is his who occupies it. A man who in the British seas toils year in and year out for others may own his own home, his piece of land and his boat, by no man's favour.

### THE FOREST TREES.

In this respect there is no other province of Canada, no country in Europe and no state in North America, that compares with it.

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 luxurious growth of wood. A settler may be lavish as he pleases: there is enough and to spare.

The finest growth is on the coast, and in the Gold and Selkirk ranges. Millions on millions of feet of lumber, locked up for centuries past, have now become available for commerce. The Canadian Pacific Railway passes through a part of this, and crosses streams that will bring untold quantities to the mills and railway stations. The Government Department of Agriculture has published a catalogue and authoritative description of the trees of British Columbia, in which the several species are ranked as follows:—

*Douglas Spruce* (otherwise called "Douglas Fir," "Douglas Pine," and commercially, "Oregon Pine.") A well-known tree. It is straight, though coarse-grained, exceedingly tough, rigid, and bears great transverse strain. For lumber of all sizes, and planks, it is in great demand. Few woods equal it for frames, bridges, ties, and strong work generally, and for shipbuilding. Its length, straightness and strength specially fit it for masts and spars.

*The Western Hemlock* occurs everywhere in the vicinity of the coast, and reaches 200 feet in height. Yields a good wood; bark has been used in tanning. Is like the eastern hemlock, but larger.

*Englemann's Spruce* (very like "white spruce"), tall, straight, often over three feet in diameter—wood good and durable. Forms dense forests in the mountains.

*Menzies Spruce* chiefly clings to coast, a very large tree, wood white and useful for general purposes.

*The Great Silver Fir*, so far as known, is specially a coast tree. It grows to a great size, but the wood is said to be soft and liable to decay.

*Balsam Spruce* abounds on Gold and Selkirk ranges and east of McLeod's Lake. Often exceeds two feet in diameter.

Among the pines may be mentioned the familiar tree known locally as "red pine," "yellow pine," or "pitch pine," considered to be a variety