

eminently adapted for such use, the former being one of the strongest timbers known, where put down in the cities in the Province it has proved highly satisfactory. Then the vast quantity of wood required for making paper-pulp must in a few years' time at any rate come from the north-western coast of the Pacific, as the forests of other countries are rapidly being depleted.

Travellers in British Columbia are always impressed by the grandeur of the forest trees, the Douglas pine attaining a height of 300 feet and a circumference of 30 to 50 feet. One sees in England at Kew Gardens a flagstaff brought from Vancouver Island. It is only a piece of one of our trees, but it towers far above all the other noble trees in this beautiful garden. Tourists, too, if in British Columbia in summer, are astounded by the great shoals of salmon at the mouths of the rivers. It is not many years ago that these fish were left practically undisturbed, except by the Indians, but now they are caught by millions to be packed in tins for shipment abroad. This business is an important one; it employs in the season several thousand men. The pack of last year, 1901, was 1,190,000 cases of 48 lbs. each, or 67,120,000 lbs. of salmon—nearly a pound and three-quarters each for every man, woman and child in Great Britain. If this were all shipped home by long sea voyage, as most of it is, it would require about 25 ships, of 1,200 to 1,400 tons capacity each, to transport this nearly 30,000 tons weight of salmon. In addition to the salmon, the sea abounds with cod and halibut, and a great variety of other good fish, but comparatively little has been done at present to utilise the produce of the great sea farm.

#### FRUIT GROWING AND DAIRYING.

As to the agricultural capabilities of the Province, a very erroneous opinion for a long time existed that British Columbia could grow nothing of importance. It used to be said years ago that it might some day be a good mining country, but certainly would never be anything else. Of recent years, however, a great change has come about. It is found that the land and climate is eminently adapted for fruit growing and mixed farming, and there is a good market close at hand in the North-West Territories and Manitoba, and at home in towns and mining districts, for all that can be produced. How important the fruit industry is likely to become may be realised from the fact that though it was only practically commenced for business purposes about seven or eight years since, already considerable exports are being made. Up to the middle of October this year, some 125 carloads of splendid fruit had been shipped to the North-West and Manitoba and sold at excellent prices. I am not fully informed as to the quantity of fruit that can be packed in a Canadian railway freight car; I do know, however, that each car carries 20,000 to 30,000 lbs. weight of ordinary merchandise, but, no doubt, on account of packing and comparative light weight in proportion to bulk, considerably less of fruit. In addition to the fruit exported, a very large quantity is used in the Province.

I am informed that from Lord Aberdeen's fruit ranch in the Okanagan District fifty carloads were sold for export this year. Up to the present none has been shipped to Great Britain, for the very good reason that the supply is not yet up to the demand at home and in the adjoining Provinces. Of this I feel sure, however, that the time will come soon when British Columbia fruit will be imported into this country, and then you will know what really good fruit is. For such kinds as apples, pears, plums, and probably peaches, Californian productions cannot compare with ours. It amazes me to see the quantity of Californian apples that are sold in London. I think that they would