

again, grows to a much greater size than our hemlock, and produces good, clean lumber, and that tree is found along the whole of the coast and over a considerable part of the interior. The maple, which is rather an inferior wood except for cabinet-making purposes, owing to the curly grain, is only found on the coast. The oak is confined to the southern part of the coast, and is not in sufficient quantity to be looked upon as a commercial wood on a large scale. The yellow cedar or yellow cypress is another wood that has attracted much notice. It is found chiefly on the northern part of the coast, and is an exceedingly fine wood for cabinet-making. It is a close wood, and very lasting, penetrated by resinous substances which protect it from decay to a very great extent, and give it a peculiar odor. In the interior of the Province there is the yellow pine, which inhabits the dry southern part of the plateau, and is locally a tree of great value. In fact, it is the wood most used in the interior, in some districts even in preference to the Douglas fir, where that occurs. I might state, in general, that every part of British Columbia is amply and well provided with excellent wood for construction and other purposes. The coast has the pre-eminence in that respect, owing to the facility of export and to the gigantic size of the forests, due to the mildness of the climate and its humidity.

Q. Point out the northern and eastern limit of the Douglas fir?—The northern limit is on the Skeena, and on Tacla and Babine Lakes. To the east the limit is at the Rocky Mountains. It is abundant even on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, as far east as the Porcupine Hills, and is now being extensively used for construction in the western part of the prairie region.

Q. Principally on the rivers that may be utilized for bringing it to market?—On the eastern slope of the Rockies, yes; but on the west the timber business is not carried on by floating logs down rivers as it is here, because of the large size of the logs and the rapidity of the streams. Nearly all the timber cut for exportation on the west coast is drawn out, either by teams or on small steam tramways, to the shore, launched into the sea and towed to the mill.

Q. Will you give us your opinion as to the timber resources of Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands respectively?—The chief difference between Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, in regard to timber, is that on a large part of Vancouver Island the Douglas fir is found abundantly, while in the Queen Charlotte Islands it is not found at all. It is replaced there by cedar, hemlock and spruce, and the yellow cypress or yellow cedar. An area of about 1,000 square miles of the flat part of the Queen Charlotte Islands is covered very densely with excellent timber, but as it does not include the Douglas fir and the Islands are rather north of the usual mercantile routes at present, it has not given rise, so far, to the erection of any mills. There are very excellent sites for mills, however, in the Islands, particularly at Naden and Massel Harbors, and other places where streams from the low country reach the sea. The timber of the Queen Charlotte Islands I look upon as one of the most valuable immediate resources of the Islands, and as soon as the demand for timber shall increase a little more, they will, no doubt, be utilized. Another feature with regard to these Islands is that, owing to the humidity of the climate, the woods have been very little affected by forest fires, and even where large quantities of rotten and decayed trunks, of great thickness, have accumulated on the ground, they lie there and go to decay rather than burn.

Q. Speaking of the cedar as a commercial wood, you say sometimes it grows to a diameter of 17 ft.; are the trunks covered with branches, or are they comparatively free from branches for any considerable distance from the ground?—The cedar is apt to give off a number of branches, but when it attains large dimensions, the living branches are generally near the top. These very large trees are more or less hollow generally. The Indians select the largest sound cedars they find for their magnificent canoes, and the dimensions of those canoes show how large such trees may be found when one goes to search for them carefully. I might state, however, in connection with the Queen Charlotte and Vancouver Islands, that, as the total area of which I have estimated the area of at about 1,230 square miles. The soil of this is almost uniformly good, but, being to a great extent covered with trees, it cannot be

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