

for importation. The Rossland Mines of British Columbia, for instance, bring in Douglas Fir from the adjacent State of Washington, at a cost of about eight cents per lineal foot for suitable timbers.

The addition of a mining town, lumber for flumes, ties for railways and tramways, considerably increases the draft upon the forest; for the mining industry is in its nature seldom permanent; hence wood is used for almost all structures. The careless fires of the associated prospector consume large areas of the forest. This burnt and standing timber for a time is well adapted to mining purposes, being seasoned and light, but who can time forest fires to meet the demands of the mines? Thousands of miles of half-standing, half-fallen trees may be seen in British Columbia. This burnt-over ground is recognized as helping the prospector to find minerals by reason of the bareness left by such fires. The exceeding dryness of last summer in British Columbia added greatly to the burnt areas, the forests burning from the valleys up to the timber line.

A tax of even five cents per ton for timber is more than many of the great mines can afford, the margin of profit being so small. Many expedients are used to avoid timbering; the excavations are allowed to cave in, or are filled with waste rock, at less expense. Amongst the woods best fitted to withstand the rapid deterioration in mines are the conifers, especially the Douglas Fir of the Pacific Slope, the Spruce, Hemlock and Mountain Tamarac (*Larix occidentalis*). These are the principal timbers of the Canadian mountains and some of the Western States. The last is a very fine tree, often two feet in diameter, without limbs for fifty feet. It appears to reach its best westwards of the East Kootenay Valley.

The Douglas Fir of the Pacific Coast is exported to the South African mines, as also the Eucalyptus or gum tree of Australia, and the Kauri Pine of New Zealand. All of these mentioned are resinous trees, best suited for the short life and duty of mine timbers; artificial preservatives are rarely used. Peeling some months before use is sometimes done with good results, as at the Le Roi Mine.