

under these conditions. It occurs in the Okanagan, Slocan and Kootenay districts, and as far north as the Yukon.

Western larch grows rapidly in height, but slow in diameter, and takes about 250 years to mature. Trees 12 inches in diameter are about 100 years old. Seeds well over burnt areas, and often disputes the ground with Black pine.

BALSAM OR AMABILIS FIR (*Abies amabilis*)

Also called "Silver" and "White" Fir

This tree is not very well known, although there is a considerable quantity of it on the coast. It grows to a maximum size of about five feet in diameter, but is usually about three feet in diameter.

In dense stands, it forms a clean straight tree, free of branches for 100 feet or more. The wood is somewhat similar to spruce in general character and is suitable for boxes, pulp, etc. As yet it has not come into commercial use.

Amabilis fir requires about the same conditions as to climate and soil as Western hemlock, with which it is invariably associated. It is abundant on the west coast and northern portions of Vancouver Island.

The following special localities may be noted: Barkley Sound, Clayoquot Sound and north of Salmon river. It also occurs along the coast range of the mainland, and on the Queen Charlotte Islands. It is moderately long-lived.

Trees three feet in diameter are about 150 years old, and probable age limit about 300 years. Its seed is sought after by the squirrel, and is their principal food where it abounds.

BLACK COTTONWOOD (*Populus trichocarpa*)

Cottonwood is the largest of the poplars, growing to a maximum of about six feet in diameter. Usually from two to four feet in diameter and about 80 feet in height. It is not in great demand at the present time, but is destined to become an important soft wood for special purposes. It is now being used for the manufacture of staves for sugar barrels, excelsior, etc. It is one of the best woods we have for mechanically