

FORESTS

The forests of British Columbia harmonize with its mountains in their grandeur and extent. Here are found gigantic trees of rugged trunks and lofty heads, broadened and heightened by centuries of growth, that almost suggest an inspiration caught from the massive ranges and lofty peaks on whose slopes they grow. Nature's works in these fields are on a scale of massive splendor and her forests fairly rival her mountains and valleys or her lakes and rivers in their wonderful proportions. Like stately sentinels they guard the deep silent valleys and clothe the massive rising mountain sides in luxuriant mantles of richest green. In perfect harmony with the wonderful physical characteristics of the great province they provide a background or setting to the picture presented, softening and smoothing the rugged lines and giving the finishing touches to make it one of the most beautiful and yet awe-inspiring scenes of the world.

The greatest single forest area in the world is that found on the Pacific slope of the North American continent. It is over 2,000 miles in length and extends in breadth from the Pacific ocean to the Rocky mountains. In this forest region are found some of the oldest and largest trees ever discovered. From them are secured timbers of the largest dimensions and strongest properties produced in the world. But not only in size and strength do these timbers excel. The clearness of the wood and the beauty of its grain are most remarkable while the lasting quality of the fibre still further enhances its value. This great forest area contains over half the standing timbers of the North American continent. The province of British Columbia occupies the north central portion of this great belt. Thus as an integral part of this, the world's greatest forest region, the forests of British Columbia may justly be regarded with admiration.

The economic value of these forests is in keeping with other great resources of the province. They are believed to contain about one half of the saw material of the whole Dominion of Canada. The mild climate of the coast regions and the heavy precipitation which prevails there has resulted in producing, not only a prolific growth of trees of large size, but trees whose wood is unexcelled in clearness, strength and beauty. Though less in size the trees of the interior parts of the provinces still maintain in goodly proportion the high standard of value that the woods of the coast are found to possess.

Four species in particular have made the forests of British Columbia famous. They are the Douglas fir, the western hemlock, the red cedar and the Sitka or silver spruce. The great age and size attained by these species and the value and beauty of their woods give them an undisputed rank among the famous trees of the world. In all some 48 species are found of which 22 are coniferous (evergreen) and 26 deciduous. The trees of commercial value are nearly all coniferous. They comprise 16 species belonging to this class and one to the deciduous.

The Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macronata*) is also known as the red fir, yellow fir, Oregon pine, Columbia pine and Douglas spruce. It is one of the most important timber trees in the world. In size it is surpassed only by the Sequoia of California. Its average height is 150 to 225 feet with a diameter of 3 to 6 feet but it sometimes attains a