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woods, the most common of which are the *Douglasii* and the *grandis*. The former furnishes material for most excellent spars; the latter is a soft wood, very white, and open in the grain. It is difficult to season it, and, from the irregularity of its growth, is cross-grained, and does not make good timber. The *Canadensis*, the *mitis*, and the *alba*, which flourish well wherever there is any depth of soil, all make excellent timber, but are none of them adapted for finishing work. There is also the large red cedar of America, which grows into a noble tree; the *Abies nobilis*, and the *Cupressus thyoides*. The largest and most picturesque tree of the fir tribe in Vancouver Island is the *nobilis*; it is not, however, often met with, growing only in rich alluvial bottoms, and in no place that I have seen conveniently situated for export. This tree sometimes reaches a height of 250 feet, with a circumference of forty-two feet at the butt; the bark is from eight to fourteen inches thick. The white maple grows in all the low woodlands, and is abundant, but never reaches any great size. Wherever there is an open prairie land, two kinds of oak—the *Quercus suber clavigata*, and another similar species, somewhat darker in the bark and harder in the quality of the wood—are found. The quality of the wood of both these kinds of oak is hard and tough, and they are excellently adapted to form the knees and timbers for vessels. The trees, however, are small and scrubby, and hide their abashed heads below the towering conifers by which they are surrounded.

A large species of *Arbutus* grows on the seacoast, and on the banks of rivers, sometimes reaching a height of from thirty to forty feet. The bark is smooth, and of a bright-red colour; the wood is hard and white, and takes an excellent polish. Only one kind of pine has as yet been found on the island, the *Monticola*.

The above-mentioned kinds all grow to a great height—from 150 to 200 feet and upwards—wherever the land is at all level, and where there is any depth of soil. To the spectator from the seaboard the island appears one mass of wood. Among the natural productions of Vancouver Island the native hemp must not

be omitted. Specimens have been sent to England, and, on its quality being tested, it was found to be superior to Russian hemp. There is no great quantity of it growing on the island, it being, more properly speaking, a natural production of the banks of Frazer River on the opposite mainland. There is no doubt, however, that it might be very extensively cultivated in Vancouver Island, and in its cultivation is probably the way, next to salmon-fishing, the labour of the entire population might be most profitably employed.

In the months of August and September a general jubilee occurs, and every man and woman goes forth to catch the salmon that abound at this time, with net, spear, and hook. The herring season succeeds, and, during the months of October and November, their time is occupied in raking the fish into their canoes by means of long sticks armed all over with crooked nails. The herring is stated to be precisely similar to that caught on the west coast of Scotland. Of salmon there are seven distinct kinds; they are fine, large fish, sometimes weighing from fifty to sixty pounds. A few whales visit this coast at certain seasons. The native mode of securing them is to attack them in large numbers—in fact, surround them with canoes—and, by incessantly plunging darts attached to air-bladders into their bodies, to tire them out, and so slaughter them. Afterwards they are towed ashore, when the oil is “tried out” into wooden tubs by the aid of hot stones.

From Colonel Grant's exceedingly valuable description of Vancouver Island we extract the following statement of the trade carried on there during the year 1853. All the *bond fide* trade has been between the island and San Francisco; but the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels have exported cargoes of salmon from Frazer River to the Sandwich Islands. Salmon, herrings, and cod are to be found abundantly all around the coast; sturgeon and halibut also exist in great quantities. The fisheries, coal, and timber undoubtedly make the island worthy of attention, without at all taking into account the facilities for farming many parts of the island offer.