

Its chief value is for the manufacture of pulp for paper, but it may also be used for fence rails, fuel, tannery or boxes. Dry weight, 25 pounds per cubic foot; fuel value, 40.

The balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*, Linnaeus), or rough-barked poplar, occurs farther north than the aspen, but is confined mostly to the heavy clay soil of the river valleys, or to the modified drift of the Cambrian areas. In the western interior it does not appear to grow north of Lake Mistassini. At Cambrian Lake (latitude 56°) on the Kaniapiskau River, it grows on low terraces to ten inches in diameter, but on higher ground is small and straggling. Along the lower Hamilton River it is quite common, but above the Grand Falls, which, it may be mentioned, have 302 feet of a sheer drop and a volume of about 50,000 cubic feet of water per second, is not seen again till the Cambrian area is reached at Birch Lake. The wood of balsam poplar is light, soft and fine-grained, and is well-suited for the manufacture of paper pulp, pails, tobacco boxes and small packing cases. The tree received its name because of the balsamic sticky exudation of the leaf-buds. In full foliage it is a splendid object as the wind blows through its branches, displaying the brilliant colors of its leaves, which are dark green above and rusty-looking below. The pollen of the poplars and spruces often blows across a lake in such large quantities as to form quite a thick film on its surface.

The white or canoe birch (*Betula papyrifera*, Marshall) grows everywhere in the southern part of the peninsula, and often forms dense thickets on hillsides which have been traversed by fire. With its gleaming white trunk, luxuriant dark foliage, and open, airy, graceful head, it is always a picturesque feature of the forest landscape. About Hamilton Inlet it grows to ten inches in diameter, but towards the upper waters of the Hamilton River seldom exceeds eight inches. Northward the trees are smaller, and the Indians have to import their bark for canoe-building. As the semi-barren lands are approached, the mixture of dwarf birches and willows growing on the hillsides forms almost impenetrable thickets.

The wood of canoe birch is light, strong, hard, tough, and very close-grained. The Indians use it for axe handles, sleds, paddles, snowshoe frames, and many other articles requiring a light, strong, tough wood. There is no American species to excel it as a spool wood. It is also used for the manufacture of bobbins, turned boxes, bowls, shoe lasts, shoe pegs, for interior finishing, and for the manufacture of furniture. In the settled portions of Canada most of the white birch has disappeared, but in the Labrador Peninsula vast areas yet remain to be exploited.

The heartwood is light-brown, tinged with red, but the sapwood is nearly white and quite thick. It has a fuel value of 59, and weighs 37 pounds per cubic foot when perfectly dry. The