

Forest wealth of Canada.

coast waters. Probably the next most useful tree is the white spruce (*Picea Sitchensis*). It is found interspersing the forests of fir and other trees, principally in low, swampy and delta lands, but no place in very large quantities. It attains a circumference almost equal to the Douglas fir but does not grow so tall or clear of branches. It makes beautiful lumber for doors, dressing, etc., and is largely used for making salmon and fruit boxes, as well as barrels. It will also provide excellent material for paper-making. The Menzies spruce increases in quantity as you go north. Hemlock (*Tsuga Mertensiana*) is common, and up the coast is found in large quantities. It is a useful timber, but answering about the same purposes as Douglas fir, it will not come into use until the latter is exhausted. White pine (*Pinus monticola*) is very valuable, but limited. Balsam (*Abies nobilis*) is widely distributed, being found principally in river valleys, but is commercially of but little value. With the exception of the yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) and tamarack, the above are the principal representatives of the family of evergreens found in British Columbia, and these latter are by no means unimportant. Of deciduous trees, the large leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), alder (*Alnus rubra*), crab apple (*Pirus rivularis*), oak (*Quercus Garryana*), two varieties of poplar or cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* and *trichocarpa*), aspen poplar (*Populus tremuloides*), arbutus (*Arbutus Menziesii*) and birch, willow and juniper. The maple, alder and arbutus make beautiful cabinet woods, and though not abundant are very popular finishings. Poplar, or cottonwood as it is commonly called, is used for the manufacture of "Excelsior" and could be extensively used for paper-making. The aspen poplar is common on Vancouver Island and in the northern interior. The oak is a stunted, gnarled species, only found in the southern part of the island. It is not useful but is very picturesque. Crab-apple is plentiful in swampy places around ponds, beaver meadows and along river banks. Nearly all the hardwoods referred to are usually found in bottom lands and their presence indicates fruitfulness. There is no part of British Columbia where the timber supply is not sufficient for local demands.

A most remarkable feature of the timber is not the extent so much as its density. As high as 500,000 feet have been taken off a single acre, while about 75,000 feet would be an average yield.

There are fifty-one saw-mills in the province, with a daily capacity of 3,000,000 feet. Of these, thirty-five are on the coast, having a daily capacity of between 1,750,000 feet and 2,000,000 feet. Last year the whole cut of the province was 65,000,000 feet. It has been estimated that there are over 100,000,000,000 feet of good timber in sight and that the present saw-mills running fully employed, and making an average output, would take between one hundred and fifty and two hundred years to exhaust the present supply. So that there may be no immediate anxiety about what our houses are to be built of in the near future.

However, when the Nicaraguan canal shall have been completed and the foreign demand, now and for some time back very much depressed, shall have revived, British Columbia, being practically the final resort of lumbermen on this continent, may expect to experience a boom in her lumber industry greater than was ever known in America. When that time comes, those who own large timber limits—and there are a good many who do—will reap a rich harvest.

TIMBER REGULATIONS.

Leases of surveyed, unpre-empted crown timber lands may be obtained for a period not exceeding twenty-one years by those tendering the highest cash bonus, subject to the payment of an annual rental of 10 cents per acre and a royalty of 50 cents per thousand feet on the scaled measurement of the logs. The lessee, if not actually engaged in the manufacture of lumber, must, to retain his limits, erect a mill capable of cutting at least 1,000 feet a day for every 400 acres of land included in the lease, within two years, and give a guarantee equivalent to 10 cents an acre that he will do so before obtaining his lease.

A timber license may be granted for 1,000 acres for four years, on payment of \$10 annually and 15 cents for each tree (except hemlock), and no person, not licensed, may