

found readily. Many of the inlets are almost wall-sided, with short water-courses or torrents emptying into them the water collected among the surrounding gloomy mountains. The rivers generally which flow into these inlets are not good "logging" rivers. There is, however, a vast extent of sheltered water-line between Millbank Sound and the New Westminster district, and it is impossible not to believe that suitable places for large Douglas fir export saw-mills are to be found where practical saw-millers would make fortunes.

The West Cascade region is difficult to traverse, and has not been a tenth part explored by saw-mill men. If it should prove that suitable locations for large saw-mills are few, the value of these to the possessors will be proportionately increased.

The saw-mill business in British Columbia would be greatly helped if the San Francisco market were opened by the reduction or removal of the duty on foreign lumber.

None of the other conifers in the north-west are likely to take the place of the Douglas fir for export trade, until the latter is completely exhausted in accessible situations in both English and American territory. I may, however, name a few of these conifers.

Menzies' fir ("spruce fir," or "black spruce") is plentiful; smaller than the Douglas fir, but still a Titan. Merten's fir ("hemlock spruce") is also a very large tree, with a straight trunk. The wood of these trees has little export value compared with the Douglas fir. Hemlock lasts well in the ground and makes good laths. Another large fir is the "Canada fir," but the timber is inferior, though when seasoned it makes boards, scantling, and shingles. The bark is useful in tanning. The "Contorted pine"—which some call the "Scotch fir"—is found through the valley of the Fraser on the high grounds; it grows from 25 to 50 feet high, and 1 foot in diameter. On the upper parts of the Fraser this tree is plentiful, but of little value except for its resin. The white pine (the north-western representative of the *Strobus*) is a fine tall tree, with wood like the white pine of Eastern Canada, but it is not known to grow sufficiently in groves to supply large export saw-mills. For local uses the white pine will be important.

In selecting a farm, the settler will find small cedar a most valuable farm-wood for fencing and roofing. It is durable and easily split. Cedar grows scattered among the fir forests. Many fine specimens are found on the mountains, 30 to 40 feet round at the butt, and 200 feet high. The Indians use cedar for numerous purposes; I speak of the *Thuja gigantea*. It becomes rare as you go north, and ceases about 58°. There is another fine tree of the same kind, the yellow cypress (*Cupressus nutkaensis*). This grows small in Vancouver Island and in the south of the West Cascade region, but north of 53°, up to about Sitka, it is plentiful, and as large as its southern congener, the cedar. The yellow cypress is tough, light, and fragrant, and takes a fine polish. I think it likely that it will be exported in small cargoes when the Nasse-Skena district is settled.

The alder is frequently met with among the fir-forests, chiefly beside streams, or in cool, humid places. It grows to about 30 or 40 feet, with a straight smooth trunk. Alder land is generally good, and is easily cleared. Alder makes good firewood. The large-leaved maple is our best substitute for hard wood; it grows 70 feet high and 2 or 3 feet thick, generally on the banks of streams and