

fused, but are also persistent over great areas, being found almost everywhere within the limits of their distribution, while others, although having an extensive range, are nowhere very common, and are sometimes absent for considerable intervals. Others, again, are confined to comparatively small tracts. As a general rule, the more northern species occupy the greatest extent of country, while the southern ones are progressively more and more restricted, even in a more rapid ratio than would be implied by the narrowing of the continent from north to south. This is owing to the great differences experienced in climatic conditions in going from east to west in the more southern latitudes. Along the northern borders of the forests of the continent the elevation of the land above the sea is comparatively slight and regular, and the other physical conditions are tolerably uniform. As a consequence, we find the most northern group of trees extending from Newfoundland into Alaska, a distance of about 4,000 miles.

An inspection of the accompanying map will show some interesting features as to the general distribution of our forest trees, as well as regarding almost every individual species of timber. For example, it will be observed that there is no material change in the woods throughout the great triangular area embracing about 600,000 square miles, of which the national boundary line between the Rocky Mountains and Lake Superior forms the base, and the Rocky Mountains and Laurentian hills respectively the west and east sides, the apex being at the mouth of the Mackenzie River. In the southern part of this area, a number of species are added to the kinds which everywhere throughout make up the bulk of the forests, and again, few trees of any kind are found to the south of the North Saskatchewan; still, making allowance for local peculiarities of condition, there is a remarkable uniformity in the timber of this enormous area. It includes, however, only a few species, of which the aspen, balsam poplar and willows are more abundant towards the western, and the spruces, larch, balsam fir and Banksian pine towards the eastern side of the area.

It will be observed that the lines marking the northern limits of about a dozen species turn southward, and become their western limits on reaching the eastern side of the valley of Lake Winnipeg