



Some Excellent Timbler on the Limits of the Adams' River Timber Co., of British Columbia.

The History of Familiar Trees

By E. B. Luke, Montreal.

Where do trees and plants come from? What their history and habits of life? How are they produced, multiplied, and improved, for all fine fruits and flowers are artificial products, subdued, and ameliorated from the wild state by the hand of man?

You have doubtless heard of the giant Sequoia (the big tree of California), growing from 300 to 500 feet high and having diameters of from 20 to 60 feet, single trees of which are known to have lived for over 4000 years, with a possibility of nearly double that age. When one of these large trees in California fell not long ago, 4000 rings were counted. That tree was 40 centuries old. It was a strong, young tree when Abraham went into Egypt. It saw the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was nearly a thousand years old when David slew Goliath, and older when Christ was born, than the Christian religion is to-day, or the Jupiter Oak in the forest of Fontainebleau

supposed to be 700 years old, or the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane at Jerusalem at least 2000 years old, and which, according to traditions, were in existence at the time of Christ. All these, though, were mere infants compared to the *Dragon trees* of the Canary Islands, one of which we are told was 42 feet in diameter when the Spaniards landed in 1402 and when destroyed by a storm in 1851 was supposed to be over 8000 years old.

By the Swimmin' Hole.

Then there is another class of trees historically important, a class closely interwoven with our boyhood life and as dear to our hearts as the old home-stead. I refer to the old Elm or perhaps it was a Hickory of Willow that marked and spread its protecting branches over the favorite swimming hole of the gang. What stories of bovish pranks and good times it could tell? Or the big