

Ontario and Quebec it is almost too late to grapple effectually with a change of system in the leasing of timber lands, but British Columbia has the opportunity before it.

(2.) POPLARS.—The zone of the Poplars (*Populus tremuloides* and *Populus balsamifera*) may be said to include the whole country east of the Rocky Mountains from southern British Columbia to the mouth of Red River, Lake Nipigon and Anticosti in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and thence northward to the limit of the growth of trees. The Poplars are found south of these limits, but not in that abundance which makes them here the characteristic species. The southern limits include a very considerable tract of prairie country, but even there, in the river valleys and among the scattered timber bluffs, the Poplar is often almost the only tree. South of the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle Rivers, Cottonwood (*Populus monilifera*), Green Ash (*Fraxinus viridis*), Elm (*Ulmus Americana*), Maple (*Negundo aceroides*), Oaks and other trees begin to appear more frequently, but the country is almost entirely prairie, and these trees are not in such numbers as to give any character to the vegetation.

In the zone of Poplars, the number of species of forest trees is almost limited to the Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), Paper Birch (*Betula papyracea*), Banksian Pine (*Pinus Banksiana*), White Spruce (*Abies alba*), Black Spruce (*Abies nigra*), Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*), and Tamarac (*Larix Americana*). These few species are, however, in such numbers individually as to constitute vast forests as far northward as the extreme limit of the growth of trees. From recent explorations we now know something of the range of these species in what has hitherto been an unknown land—the country surrounding the west coasts of Hudson Bay. The projected opening up of railway communication between Dakota, Minnesota and the Canadian Northwest on the one hand, and Churchill Harbour on Hudson Bay, on the other, has awakened an interest in the resources of this part of the country. At the outlet of Lake Winnipeg into Nelson River, the White Spruce has still sometimes a diameter of three feet, and even in the lower reaches of Nelson River is large enough for building purposes. The Balsam Fir does not here extend northward much beyond Lake Winnipeg and Oxford House on Hayes River. The Paper