

British Columbia.



PART from its mineral wealth, the timber lands of British Columbia constitute its chief resources; and now that their value is being recognised in the export markets, we may look with increasing confidence to the future to bring greater prosperity to the lumber trade of the province. Of the 382,300 square miles which form the area of British Columbia 285,554 are wooded—a large proportion, indicating the steady supply that can be assured for many years to come. In the past, forest fires have denuded the country of much of its timber, but they were hardly avoidable in the unsettled state of the Colony. Fortunately, as the greater part of the

and readiness to take an excellent finish. Hitherto the red cedar—a rich wood for interior work—has been better known; but the yellow cedar is steadily coming to the front. Cypress is grown in great profusion in Vancouver Island, but is most plentiful on the north coast, and has attained celebrity as the material out of which the Hydah Indians built their war canoes, sixty feet long. In the first illustration we give a view of a forest in British Columbia, affording some idea of the monarchs which grow in that wood-favoured country. Almost all the timber attains to great heights, and, as will be observed, the density of the woodland is considerable. Among the merchantable timbers is white spruce, which finds use in wood-pulp manufacture and in making doors, packing-cases, etc.; in the latter instance a very large supply being necessary to meet the wants of the



A BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST.

best timber is near the coast, the fires were unable to effect any serious inroads upon the most accessible supplies—owing, of course, to the humidity of the climate and the dense forest growths there found.

Some forty varieties of timber are found in the Colony, and of these Douglas fir has attained the widest celebrity. Probably its most important testimonial comes from Dr. Nansen, whose vessel, the "Fram," in the late Arctic voyage, was made of this wood. Experience in those northern regions showed its wonderful strength and elasticity, and should lead to its further popularity for similar purposes. Grown on the coast, the tree attains a height of 300 ft., for specimens have been found with a base circumference approaching 45 ft. Heights of 150 ft. may be classed as fair average sizes, with a diameter of 6 ft. Compared with Douglas fir, so far as strength is concerned, the yellow cedar grown in British Columbia merits attention for its large dimensions, durability,

various industries in tinned goods which thrive along the coast. When the supply of Douglas fir shows evidence of exhaustion, the colonists will probably regard hemlock as its successor. Among the many excellent cabinet woods in the province are white pine, maple, alder, and the arbutus. Although the local timber supply is everywhere plentiful, there are, of course, localities where it is more profuse, and among these the best known are those on Vancouver Island, along the Fraser River, in the Westminster district, on the Burrard Inlet in South Vancouver, and the principal inlets of the coast as far as Knight's Inlet.

Looking at the commercial aspect of the British Columbia timber business, it is gratifying to note that the cloud of depression that long darkened the prospects has been lifted. According to the report of the British Columbia Board of Trade for 1895, the quantity cut during those twelve months was 142,884,640 feet, or about 40 per cent. more than in 1894, the foreign demand not only being con-