

Atlantic to the north-west boundaries of Ontario was formerly one vast forest, and is still very extensively wooded, timber in various forms being one of the principal exports of the country. In the southern part of the centre of the Dominion is a vast tract of prairie land, while the northern portion is principally forest, and is inhabited only by a few tribes of Indians, and by officers of the Hudson Bay Company in their most advanced posts. The prairie land is covered with soil of great richness, and is adapted for the raising of cereals and roots of all kinds, while for grazing purposes it is unsurpassed, the climate being suitable for stock breeding, and the pasturage excellent, and almost unlimited. West of the Rocky Mountains is another great tract of forest land, the timber on which is invaluable, while the soil is very fertile, and the country as it becomes cleared, is found to possess great agricultural capabilities.

13. The timber in British Columbia attains in many cases to an enormous size, specimens of the Douglas pine being among the largest trees in the world. The following illustrations will give some idea of their great size, square timber has been cut from the Douglas pine, measuring eight feet by one hundred and five feet in length, and from one log no less than eight pieces of timber have been cut, each piece measuring 12 inches by 12 inches and fifty feet in length. Cedar trees also have been found 24 feet in diameter and 300 feet high.

Timber in
British
Columbia.

14. The climate is dry, healthy and invigorating, and owing to the great area of the country extending over 20 degrees of latitude, or from the latitude of Constantinople to the North Pole, has a wide range of temperature. The extreme dryness of the atmosphere, however, makes both cold and heat less acutely felt than the readings of the thermometer would lead people to expect. In the Maritime Provinces the climate somewhat resembles that of the British

Climate.