

WILD ANIMALS

in Queen Charlotte islands than in any other part of the province. The yellow cedar resembles the red cedar in general appearance and size. It produces a wood of fine grain with a beautiful sulphur-yellow colour, which is easily worked, takes a high polish and is very durable, but requires to be well seasoned before use to prevent shrinkage.

The British Columbia larch, which is very plentiful in the higher altitudes and in the northern part of the province, has been described as similar in appearance to the eastern balsam, but much larger both in girth and height. It has a fine grain, is tough and durable, stains well and takes a beautiful finish. The wood of the British Columbia Broadleaf maple, owing to its curly appearance when cut, is in demand for panel work. There are many other varieties of trees, some of which produce good woods. Among others of commercial value are the western yellow pine, lodgepole pine, balsam poplar, aspen poplar, black cottonwood poplar, western white pine, red alder, garry oak, paper birch, western birch, mountain fir, amabilis fir and lowland fir. The last two are found chiefly along the coast.

As the finest forests of British Columbia are on the islands and near the coast, while the coast is indented with numerous inlets of the sea extending far inland and receiving the waters of many rivers, the cost of getting out the timber is low and the facilities for shipment abroad are probably unequalled. The forests of the interior are not so accessible for shipments overseas, but there will be a market in the Prairie Provinces for the timber cut by the interior mills.

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Hunting was the chief means of livelihood of the North American Indians before the arrival of the white man, and fur trading was the first commercial enterprise of white men in Canada. That the business is still quite important, although wild animals are seldom seen in the settled parts of Canada, is evident from the statistical reports of the Customs Department, which show that during the last fiscal year before the outbreak of the war the exports of furs amounted in value to \$5,569,476, while even in the war year 1916 the exports were valued at \$4,778,337. In addition to the furs exported large quantities are used in Canada. Among the wild animals killed for their skins and furs were beavers, badgers, black, brown, grizzly and white bears, caribou, coyotes, deer, elk, ermine or weasels, black, blue, silver, red, white and cross foxes, grampus, lynx, martens, minks, moose, musk-ox, muskrats, otters, panthers, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, fur seals, wolves and wolverines. New Brunswick claims that as a result of game protection laws, moose, caribou and deer have greatly increased in numbers, and that there is more big game to the square mile in that province at the present time than in any other part of North America.

The forest reservations of the Dominion and provincial governments contain many fur-bearing animals. With proper direction and protection they may be made to yield a large revenue.

It has already been noted that the mosses and lichens of the so-called "Barren Lands" of the Northwest Territories furnish sustenance to millions of reindeer or caribou. Ernest Thompson Seton, the