



The supply of rags for paper-making is distinctly limited and the material too expensive for the manufacture of cheap paper. Early paper-makers experimented with fibres from the stems, leaves and other parts of numerous annual plants, but the small proportion of paper-making material recoverable from such sources led to experiments in the use of wood. Different species were tried, and finally spruce and balsam fir were found to be the most suitable for the production of all but the best classes of paper.