

most valuable coniferous wood in Canada. Up to a few years ago it was the most important wood in Canada in point of quantity of lumber sawn and square timber (Quebec pine) exported. Owing to increased scarcity of good material, the wood has fallen off in production till its place at the head of the list has been taken by the spruces and Douglas fir. The wood of the white pine is soft, easy to work, fairly durable and strong in comparison to its weight. In addition to these properties, its most valuable quality is that of holding its shape with a minimum of shrinkage or swelling. The western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) is similar in most respects to the eastern species. It does not form extensive pure stands, seldom comprising more than 5 p.c. of the trees on a given area. It is confined to the province of British Columbia, while the eastern white pine is found from eastern Manitoba to the Atlantic sea-board.

The wood of the red or Norway pine of eastern Canada (*Pinus resinosa*) is harder and more resinous than white pine, and the tree is a valuable source of structural timber, as well as of sawn lumber. The wood of the western yellow or "bull" pine of the interior of British Columbia (*Pinus ponderosa*) is softer and lighter in colour than red pine, and is now used extensively as a substitute for white pine. The two jack pines (*Pinus Banksiana* of the east and north, and *Pinus Murrayana* of the Rocky mountains and British Columbia) are not considered as valuable lumber-producing trees, although they are both used locally for rough construction. Jack pine railway ties are used to an enormous extent, chiefly on account of the strength, cheapness, and abundance of the wood. Jack pine has a well-established use in the manufacture of kraft pulp, and its use in the manufacture of pulp for newsprint is now being developed. There are three other species of the genus *Pinus* that reach tree size in Canada, but these are only of local importance.

Douglas Fir.—The Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) of British Columbia and the Pacific coast, often erroneously called "Oregon pine," is the only representative of its genus in Canada. It probably yields more lumber annually than any other single species in America. The tree in Canada is not found east of the Rocky mountains, the greater part of the lumber being produced in the Coast region of British Columbia. This is Canada's largest tree, and from it larger structural timbers can be obtained than from any other tree in America. It is used chiefly for structural purposes, but on account of its attractive appearance it is also used extensively for interior finish. The wood is also important in Canada as a material for railway ties and mining timbers. It is noted chiefly for its strength and durability, and the large dimensions in which it can be obtained.

Hemlock.—There are three hemlock species in Canada's forests, two of which are valuable timber trees. The eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is abundant throughout its range in the eastern provinces, but is not found west of the province of Ontario. The wood is used chiefly for construction, especially in house framing. It supplies the demand for a cheap, strong material for many purposes, including railway ties, poles, mining timber, pulpwood, and firewood, and its bark is a valuable source of tannin. The western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) is found in Canada only in the province of British Columbia, and is becoming more valuable each year as its qualities are better appreciated. The western species is used more extensively than the eastern in pulp manufacture.

Balsam Fir.—There is only one balsam fir in northern and eastern Canada (*Abies balsamea*), which is found from Labrador almost to Alaska. Its wood is sawn into lumber only to take the place of more valuable woods for rough construction,