

Animals within the herd that are suspected of having mucosal disease should be isolated immediately from the entire herd. Watering and feed troughs from which the infected animals have had access should be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected. It has been definitely proved that mucosal disease may spread by direct contact and through feed and water.

DOUGLAS FIR: NEW KING OF TREES

When the immortal frigate *Constitution* first put to sea in the year 1798, she carried as masts three lofty white pines felled in Maine. But when in 1925 these had to be removed, there was left no white pine in all the eastern states tall enough to replace those glorious sticks. From the northwest came, instead, three towering shafts of Douglas fir, and these "Old Ironsides" bears in her decks today where she rides in honor at the dock of Boston navy yard.

Thus has the white pine fallen from first place among the timber trees of the continent; thus has Douglas fir (which no American had ever seen or heard of when the keel of the *Constitution* was being laid) risen to the position of premier industrial tree of the world. For it was to this great western conifer that the lumber industry turned when, at the close of the last century, the end of virgin eastern white pine was in sight. Luckily for them and us the noble species which took its fallen sister's place is quite as versatile in fulfilling a hundred vital uses and manyfold as abundant.

And it is mightier in stature. Towering up to heights as great as 220 feet, with sometimes 100 feet of trunk clean of branches, arrow straight, and with almost no taper below the crown discernible to the naked eye, an ancient Douglas fir may be 17 feet in diameter. This tree is thus the tallest and most ponderous in North America, save only the two sequoias. And except in their presence it is almost everywhere in its immense range the most majestic species, as it is commercially the most important.

One-fourth of all the leading saw timber in the United States is Douglas fir! In volume it surpasses any other one species. It occurs in every western state and in parts of Canada and Mexico. Its somber shape, its serrated crowns and sharp lance point tips and long swaying boughs, become printed like a lasting eidolon on all our memories of the Pacific coast. And even deep in the desert states of the southwest we meet it again, on high peaks, with gratitude for its dim, cool groves after the glare and heat of the rocky wastes below.

To see a growth of virgin Douglas fir in all its venerable grandeur—for these trees may live 500 to 1,000 years—perhaps the most impressive of accessible spots is on Grouse mountain, which rises behind the fine seaport city of Vancouver in British Columbia. A highway takes you up in hawklike, soaring swoops, and from the excellent road's end a footpath leads you directly up into the undisturbed and solemn stand where Douglas trees of towering height mingle with hemlocks and cedars only a little less tall.

It is very dim and cool under the close canopy; seldom does a sunbeam reach to the forest floor, where mosses seem not to have been trodden since the ice age. And everywhere you look the great shafts of the fir close up the aisles with their dark, deeply furrowed bark. From time to time the mountain wind goes seething through the high canopy above you, as if the whole forest were breathing as one ancient organism. And, if you are still, you will hear a spirit voice. It seems to begin far away at the auditory horizon and to bound toward you—a "bump . . . bump . . . bump—a dump"—as if some creature were knocking on the great fir trunks. This is the call of the blue grouse, for which the mountain is named, and as each bird utters it the next one takes up the proclamation. Somehow the stentorian bird seems the very voice of this profound and aboriginal wilderness, and its cry, once heard, will be linked forever with your memory of Douglas trees.