

"Still, the broadcast sowing of native spruce, in 1902, under the poplar groves near Aiden Lair, in Essex county, was successful in every respect. Forester Knechtel, who did this sowing, was instructed to make a careful examination of this ground last spring, and make a report on the result. He found the surface under the young poplars—trees twenty-five feet high—thickly covered with little spruce seedlings, and his report was so encouraging that broadcast sowing will be undertaken on a large scale as soon as we can gather a supply of seed from our native spruce for that purpose. The experiment at Aiden Lair indicates that the numerous areas of poplar forest which now cover many of the old burns can be successfully underplanted with red spruce."

The methods followed in obtaining a supply of seed also give useful data and are described as follows:—

"The year 1904 was a seed year for white pine in New York, and so arrangements were made for gathering a supply, as this species produces seed only at intervals of four or five years. An examination of the pines in Northern New York was made by our foresters last year, when it was found that the little cones which require two years maturing, were forming to an extent that indicated a seed year for 1904. As the native red spruce and Norway pine did not bear cones this year the work of seed gathering was confined to white pine.

"Work was commenced early in September, before the scales on the cones had opened, and a supply was gathered between the 6th and 18th of that month. The men and boys employed were paid 30 cents per bushel delivered in sacks at Willsboro, at which prices they made good wages. At the start only 25 cents was paid, but as other parties on the ground were offering 30 cents per bushel, Mr. Pettis was obliged to pay the same.

"The cones were threshed and dried in a barn near Willsboro, rented temporarily for this purpose, after which the seeds were cleaned and winnowed in a fanning mill of the kind used by farmers."

"A bushel of white pine cones yield on an average a little over one pound of clean seed, which contains about 29,500 grains.