

crease simultaneously, very probably in an increasing ratio.

We are, as a nation, so convinced of this great forest wealth that little thought is given by the general public that things may be different some day; and unless we carefully husband our resources, the time may come, when it will be realized that Canada's forest wealth is giving out.

A word of warning is intended to be sounded in this article,—a word of very earnest and serious warning. At the present moment, if one be asked which forest trees are the most important in Canada, one would unhesitatingly reply, the Pines—the White Pine proper and Western White Pine.

Are you aware that a white pine forest in Northern Europe is a thing of the past? The White Pine, from its original home in America was quickly introduced into Europe, be-

cause of its great commercial usefulness. But now there is no White Pine to speak of; it has been replaced by an inferior pine. Why? A fungous disease is to blame. It appeared, worked for years in silence, nobody suspected anything wrong, and then trees began dying here and there—slowly at first, rapidly later on. Then the eyes of the people were opened too late, far too late, the disease was so firmly established. Then the governments realized the position, and planted trees not subject to this disease. They fought the disease; but like a vast fire the epidemic was beyond control. They could do naught but look on. Steps were taken to study the disease; but it took years before the cause became known; and, before it could be fought, the white pines had succumbed. The Disease referred to was the *White Pine Blister Rust*.

A DESTRUCTIVE PINE DISEASE IMPORTED FROM EUROPE

This disease was unknown in the continent of America; at any rate, if it did exist in early times, it cannot have been a virulent or destructive disease. When the white pine was introduced into Europe, the Blister Rust, which, before this time, must have been present somewhere,—some say in Eastern Europe or Serbia—found a very suitable host, and repaid hospitality by killing its host. There existed in European countries great tracts of land suitable for the raising of pine seedlings. Millions and millions were raised in Europe, few for their own use, but mainly for export, for export, curious as it may seem, to their native haunt the continent of America. Had one but

lived years ago, and put a stop to this importation! Sure enough the disease came to America's shores with these seedlings. It doubtless arrived much earlier than its actual discovery, for it probably took years to become acclimatized—or, perhaps, it died out with the first pines it killed before spreading further. Who knows? Before the year 1914 the disease was, to all intents and purposes, unknown here. But in 1914, it appeared in one or two localities at first, was immediately recognized, and is since being persistently fought. Europe has returned America's generosity in the meanest way; the disease found its way from that continent into America, and now threatens our own White Pine forests.

THE PINE BLISTER RUST REPRESENTS A SERIOUS FOE

Are we going to profit from the experiences of Europe? *We must!* This is the only answer possible. We must protect this most important lumber tree in our country. It is not those alone will suffer, whose interests are

in the lumber trade. Think of the thousands of homes depending directly upon the returns from such industry. True there are other trees; but the White Pine, is commercially, the most important tree, and, I shall