

Conservation

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White Pine Threatened

**Prompt Action Required to
Save this Source of Public
Revenue**

In view of the danger which threatens the white pine forests of North America through the invasion of the white pine blister disease, the value of this item of forest wealth should be thoroughly realized.

Relatively little specific information is available as to the total amount and value of the standing white pine in eastern Canada. This fact serves to emphasize the importance of the investigation of the forest resources of the various provinces, which has been undertaken by the Commission of Conservation.

It is, however, probably safe to estimate the total value of our white pine at not less than \$200,000,000. In the four eastern provinces, white pine contributes approximately \$1,250,000 out of the \$4,000,000 of annual revenue collected directly from the forests. In 1914, which was by no means a record year in the lumber industry, 652,000,000 board feet of white pine, with a value of \$13,660,000, was sawn in eastern Canada. In addition, 175,000,000 board feet was exported in the form of logs, bringing the total value of the cut for one year to \$16,160,000. The white pine is one of the most useful woods in commerce, and its growing scarcity, due very largely to lack of protection from forest fires and to extensive exploitation, has greatly enhanced its sale value in recent years.

There are in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia extensive areas suited only for forest purposes and there is no reason why the revenue and production from this source should ever be decreased if the forests are protected from fire and disease. When awakened to the gravity of the situation, public sentiment should demand the protection of our pine forests from this blight, while it is still possible to check its ravages. As a first step in this direction, a thorough investigation of the disease should be conducted to determine the most effective

means of preventing its spread. At the recent meetings of the Commission of Conservation, the Canadian Forestry Association and Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, resolutions were adopted urging the Dominion Government to appropriate \$50,000 for the investigation, location and eradication of the pine blister disease. It is practically assured that the United States Government will provide \$300,000 for this purpose,

infected district is the Niagara peninsula, but centres of infection are scattered throughout southern Ontario and southern Quebec. The northern pineries have, it is hoped, not yet been infected. In the United States the disease is reported to be doing serious damage in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

THE war has agitated every British country to its foundations. It has caused a searching of heart which the world has not known before in modern times. Among the most remarkable of its results has been the re-examination which each nation has been compelled to make with regard to its material resources. The gospel which we have been preaching for some years past has now been found to be the true gospel. It has been found by hard experience that national safety demands that the nation should not only possess resources but understand them and be able to utilize them economically. Whereas, a few years ago people listened to the discussion of this subject with polite but somewhat academic interest, they now know that no subject is of more importance to the national well-being, and that the lack of developed capacity to utilize every possible resource may in certain emergencies mean disaster. Therefore, though it be a time of war, when thoughts of war and matters relating directly to its conduct occupy people's minds almost exclusively, yet it has become clear through the very lessons taught us by the war that our work is of the most far-reaching importance. Every consideration points to vigorous and aggressive action rather than to postponement or delay.—*Sir Clifford Sifton, at Eighth Annual Meeting, Commission of Conservation.*

supplementing the grants by the various states, which will it is expected equal the federal grant.

The distribution of currant, gooseberry and white pine nursery stock from infected districts appears to offer the chief means of disseminating the disease. The importation of white pine seedlings into Canada has been prohibited and the proposed investigation should be conducted without delay in order that the most effective and economical measures may be used in the eradication of this pest.

At present the most seriously

Save the wood ashes and keep them in a dry place. They are a splendid fertilizer.

Greater Profits from Clean Seed

**If Good Crops are Expected,
Good Seed Must be Sown**

The quality of the seed grain sown on the farm next spring will depend upon the farmer himself. This is a matter which is entirely in his own hands. If good crops are to be expected, good seed must be sown. The farmer should prepare the seed now for the spring sowing. During the winter months, when other farm work is not pressing, is the best time to clean the grain for seed. The best grain grown on the farm should be used and it should be put through the fanning mill two or three times at least, or until all of the light or shrunken grain and the weed seeds are removed. There is a distinct loss in sowing weak seed and it is much more profitable to screen out the shrunken and weak grain and feed it than to sow it and lose it. It is also essential that weed seeds be not sown if weed growth is to be prevented.

The increase in total yield is practically all profit. A crop of wheat from ordinary seed may yield 25 bushels per acre, and cost 20 bushels per acre to produce, leaving five bushels per acre as net profit. If, by sowing well cleaned seed, the yield is increased one bushel per acre, the increase in net profit is 20 per cent. The cleaning of the seed in spare time during the winter does not add one cent to the cost of production. When well cleaned seed is sown in place of ordinary grain, the gain in yield is, of course, much more than one bushel per acre. The net profit has often been increased 50 per cent or even doubled. This is one way of increasing production and profit.—*F.C.N.*

MAKE PLANS NOW

A well-considered plan for the farm work, utilizing fully the time available, will vastly increase production. With the shortage of labour on our farms, the most must be made of that remaining. Proper planning of the work now will save time.