

\$81. One of the worst fires was started from a railway operated by a lumber company and resulted in a loss to the company of \$5,000.

In reforestation work a hardwood plantation of some 70 acres was set out consisting of red and pin oak, chestnut, black locust and black walnut. The seedlings were planted seven feet each way instead of four feet as is usual with conifers. The scattering of the seeds of coniferous trees was also tried and the question is one of so much importance that the paragraphs in regard to it are worthy of quotation in full:—

“Another tract was sown with white pine by the seed-spot method. The land selected for this purpose is in Essex County, near the highway running from Lower Saranac Lake to Lake Placid. The growth on this site was so uneven, rough, and overgrown with scrubby brush that the planting of seedlings at regular intervals was not practicable. The seed-spot method consists in breaking up the ground in small circular spots, about two feet wide, and at intervals of eight feet each way, or as near that as the obstacles will permit. A few seeds, ten or twelve, are scattered on the freshly turned ground and lightly covered with earth. When the seedlings thus propagated are two years old they are taken up, with the exception of one which is allowed to remain; the others, so far as needed, are set out immediately in the intervening spaces close at hand, forming thereby a plantation with intervals of four feet each way between the plants. The seed-spot method, owing to its smaller expense, is used also on smooth, level ground, in which case the patches are made at the smaller intervals on the start, thus saving any subsequent transplanting into the spaces.

“Another small tract near the Lake Placid road was sown with white pine seed, scattered broadcast. This method is also preferable on ground where seedlings cannot be set out with advantage, and furthermore, it is the cheapest way to reforest denuded lands. But it has its disadvantages as well; the seeds are often eaten by birds or rodents; and, under the most favourable circumstances, the germination is very apt to be uneven, the sprouts coming up thickly in some places, and scarcely at all in others.