

When a forest fire occurs there is a deplorable loss. The forest is a great chemical laboratory, taking air, and earth, and water, and combining them together for the use of the people. Fire comes along, the laboratory is burned, wood production stops and the people must do without.

There is a common notion that the forest will restore itself, and that valuable species of trees will by natural seeding again cover the soil. Such hope is in most cases vain. Poplar and white birch will probably occupy the ground; but the hope that the spruce and the tamarac will again cover the soil is just a poetic dream. These, to be sure, do reproduce in certain places and on certain soils; but if one observes carefully the conclusion is forced upon him that this kind of reproduction of the conifers is not going on with sufficient rapidity to furnish a perpetual supply of timber to meet the demand of the country. If the conifers are to be kept in the reserves in commercial quantity they will need to be reproduced artificially, either by sowing the seed or planting small trees. The Canadian Government has already begun thus to provide for the future.

The forest cannot be properly managed without the cutting of trees. Like the farmer, the forester has his seed time and his harvest. Agriculture produces food crops; forestry, wood crops. The lumberman harvests the natural wood crop, which Nature has taken about two hundred years to produce; the forester harvests an artificial one, which takes him about eighty years to produce. The lumberman takes in his harvest everything from which he can make present profit; the forester leaves the smaller trees in the forest to grow into future values. It is of no concern to the lumberman if the falling timbers crush little trees or the skidding tear them out by the roots. They offer no present profit and he looks upon them as worthless; but the forester sees in these young trees his future harvest and gives them his most earnest care. The lumberman's path has been full of fire. In many places he has been followed by flaming forests and dense clouds of smoke. But in the forester's tracks the green trees grow, forests again flourish on the denuded wastes, and shed upon the whole country their benign influences.

REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1908.

The members of the Entomological Branch have been active during 1908. The season on the whole from the collecting standpoint was better than it has been for several years, notwithstanding the continued drought which began in early June and lasted well on into September. Many interesting species