

# Killing of Larch in Nelson Forest District.

*Mr. H. R. MacMillan, Chief Forester of British Columbia.*

In July, 1913, clumps of 'red-tops' were noticed amongst the mixed stands of western larch on the mountain slopes above the Arrow Lakes. The trees affected were comparatively few in number, and were chiefly at an elevation of about 3,500 feet. It was not found convenient to make a study of the causes of the damage during the season, the attention of Mr. Swaine being devoted to the more important outbreaks of insects on other species.

The affection, whatever it may be, has spread with extreme rapidity, and may be expected to be reported soon from other localities.

The larch in this district is not a very important tree. In the forest it appears as tall, clean timber. Its product does not justify its appearance. The butt is heavy, and trees which are to be floated or driven must be long butted four to eight feet. The butt logs are usually very shaky, and when dry practically fall to



**Birch Planted Too Far Apart.**

This picture shows an undesirable, grassy condition, the result of planting too far apart a tree which naturally produces little shade.—From *Care of the Woodlot*.

In May, 1914, a trip through the same country showed an enormous increase in the number of 'red-tops.' Apparently the greater part of the larch on both shores of the Arrow Lakes, from water level to the upper limits of the species, is affected so seriously as to cause the destruction of the foliage. The affected trees, in many cases, form a third or more of the forest stand. The burns of several years ago have, in many places, reforested, one-quarter to one-half of the young stand being larch. The young larch, as well as the old, appears to suffer.

pieces, and, therefore, the trees are usually long butted, even where the logs are not to be floated to the mill. The lumber is heavy and pays a higher freight charge than other interior timbers. As is true with other western timbers, the defects and characteristics vary in different districts. There are places where it is not necessary to long butt western larch. It is not, however, a favorite tree with the manufacturer or timber owner.

Should the killing of the larch result in its displacement in the forest by either bull pine or western white pine, its two