

The species *Polyporus* produce a fleshy, corky, fruiting body, which rarely functions for more than one year.

How the Fungi Work.

The spores of the bracket fungi are borne on groups of four, each in a tiny spine at the ends of the branches of the mycelium which project from the inner sides of the tubes. When mature these spores are shot from their attachment with just enough force to bring them to the centre of the tube, and they then drop out of the open end at the bottom.

The spores are very light and the slightest breeze carries them long distances. Millions of spores emerge from a single fruiting body a few days after they become mature; they are sticky and adhere to any surface with which they come in contact. A large number find lodgement in wounds where infection is possible.

The germ tube of the spore produces

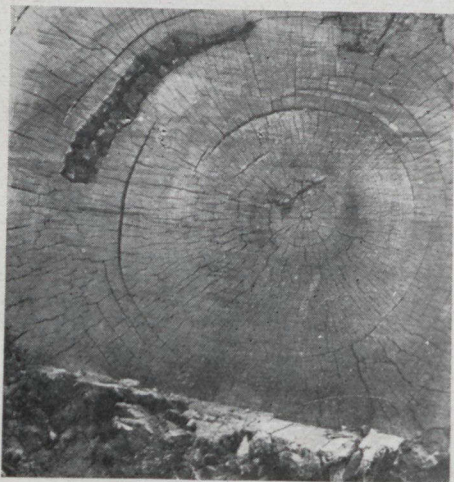


Photo by James Kay.

HOW A LOG TELLS ITS EARLY HISTORY.
This Western Larch is 335 years old, and is 33 inches in diameter. At fifteen years of age it was damaged by fire and again at 150 years. The scars are plainly visible.

short branches of mycelium which immediately begin the decay of the wood at the point of infection, and soon a large growth of the mycelium occurs, which spreads rapidly.

Conditions in the forest are ideal for the development of these fungi. Large quantities of windfall and branches are lying around; the logger leaves tops,

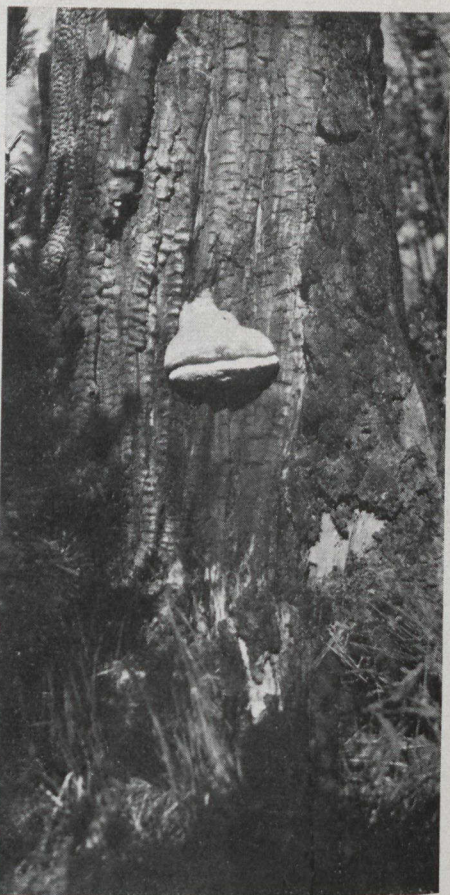


Photo by James Kay.

How the ever-ready fungus falls upon the weakened tree to complete the work of destruction by inner rot. This Western Larch has been damaged by fire and the Brown Heartwood Rot has quickly formed. Photo taken at Yahk, B.C.

culls and slash everywhere. These form an ideal nursery ground for the perpetuation and spread of wood destroying fungi.

It has been stated that by eliminating the factor of decay in forms of timber now in use, the saving in the annual cut for replacement would amount in the United States and Canada to nearly one hundred million dollars. Stated in another way we would need to produce less than half the timber now used, if the factor of decay were eliminated. "In the forest under the present system of exploitation in this country the losses from wood-rot reduce immensely the yield of timber."

A simple method of disease control in the forest is burning the slash and all diseased trees at the time of cutting.