

Throughout the country general interest in tree planting is rapidly increasing. Applications from settlers wishing to avail themselves of the Government distribution are being received daily. The tree planting inspectors report that the plantations are set out and cared for in a more intelligent manner than formerly, and particularly it is noticed that more care is given to the preparation of the ground.

It is encouraging to note that the C.P.R. are undertaking the planting of trees for snow breaks along their tracks and are also about to experiment in the growing of wood for ties and posts. It is to be hoped that the first plantings will prove successful and that this line of work may be more extensively carried on.

DESTRUCTION OF PINES, NEAR BANFF.

During the fall of 1905, I noticed a stretch of timber with all the appearance of having been burnt over—this was while coming back from a day's work on Sulphur Mountain. I had no reason to believe that it had been burnt over, as no forest fire had been in the neighborhood, to my knowledge. The matter having been brought to my attention by another observer, I resolved to visit the locality when opportunity afforded.

About a year went by before I had an opportunity of examining into the cause for such a phenomenon. On September 5th last, in the morning, I walked to Rundle Mountain—the locality—arriving at my destination within 2 hours, and took the following notes of the surroundings: About 1000 feet above the Spray River (possibly more above the town), and 5500 feet or so above sea level, I found from 1 to 2 miles or thereabouts of dead or nearly dead pines (*Pinus Murrayana*), that is from the appearance of the leaves. These ran from E.S.E. to W., the width about 600 ft., or more in places. The leaves on the trees were yellow, many having been blown to, or fallen on, the ground, the tops were green as a rule, the dying leaves only covering part of, and seldom the end of, the branch.

These trees are in what might be called rather open woods and run up to a rocky ledge; above this a few yards on, are spruces which remain uninjured; below, there is a continuation of pine (*Pinus Murrayana*), growing more densely and much smaller in size, gradually merging from trees whose top only was scorched with those uninjured. The bark was in no way injured, but