

3000 Million Seedlings to Replace British Forests

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It is estimated that by the end of this year probably one million acres of our woods—representing one-third of the total area—will have been felled for the war emergency. If this be so, and we estimate three thousand trees per acre required for replanting, this represents a supply of three thousand million seedlings

necessary for re-planting only the area which will have been felled during the war. These seedlings require three to four years in the nursery preparatory to planting in the woods. The cost of re-planting will be greatly increased if the areas are left derelict too long before re-planting.

Ways of Research and Crickets

A problem brought to us several years ago was to avoid the destruction of binder twine by crickets, recounts the "Little Journal" of Cambridge, Mass. The twine was perfectly good except for the fact that as soon as it was put to use in the harvest field the crickets straightway destroyed it. Efforts had been made to destroy the crickets but without success, and do what they would, they couldn't keep them out of the twine as soon as it reached the stubble. It was a matter of really grave importance, and finally we were called upon to undertake research in the matter. The problem was given to a chemist of unusually ripe scholarship. He was joined by a competent entomologist and they proceeded to work in the laboratory with crickets imprisoned in glass houses and, for months at a time, in the harvest fields where crickets live. Soon they reached the conclusion that it was not twine for which the insects had an insatiable passion; it was their hatred of the situation which followed the reapers in the stubble. It appeared that they bit into the twine possibly for moisture which was dried out of the wheat stalks, or for some other insectivorous reason consequent upon

changed conditions. The solution lay in discouraging the attacks, rather than in killing the fiddlers after the sheaves were loosened. Men of research are out after results, not revenge. The next step was to find something that was more unpleasant than lack of shade, more offensive than drought, more horrid than thirst from the crickets' standpoint. Research and experiment finally proved that a simple treatment of the twine makes it, cricketally speaking, unendurable and thus were accomplished great savings in wheat as well as twine. The work took several seasons with the checking up of each promising laboratory experiment in the open. Theory and practice must go hand in hand. Moreover, research means headwork, and sometimes field work.

It is estimated that the sunflower plant draws from the soil and exhales in 12 hours 12 gallons of water.

N.B. BUILDING TOWERS.

The construction of observation towers to be used in the fire fighting system of New Brunswick will be begun shortly.