

## Fight is on to Save Our Valuable Pine

Currant and Gooseberry Bushes Spread Pine Blister Disease

That the pine blister disease constitutes an extremely serious menace to the white pine forests of Canada and the United States is indicated clearly by the large amounts of money which are being expended in its control. In Canada, \$25,000 has been appropriated by the Dominion Government, to be expended by the Department of Agriculture, which is co-operating with the provinces of Ontario and Quebec in the work of detection and eradication. The expenditures of the two provinces on this work will probably about equal those of the Dominion, so that the cost of fighting the disease in Canada this year will be approximately \$50,000.

In the United States, the Federal Government has made an appropriation of \$300,000 for the current fiscal year. Appropriations aggregating nearly \$200,000 have been made by the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Of this amount, \$141,500 is available during the current year, the balance being expendable next year, under biennial appropriations. The largest single appropriation is that of Massachusetts, which is spending \$50,000 this year. As the pine blister disease has secured a very strong foothold in that state, stringent measures are imperative if its white pine is to continue as an important forest tree.

Unquestionably, the expenditure of large sums of money is both necessary and justifiable to ensure the future and the present of our white pine forests. The threat to the large areas of young forest growth of this species is especially serious, since the small trees are peculiarly susceptible to the disease.

In Quebec, the occurrence and spread of the disease is proving less serious than had been feared, in view of the situation to the south of the international boundary. Thus far, after careful work throughout the summer, it has been found only in the counties of Nicolet, Arthabaska, Lotbinière, Jacques Cartier, and Two Mountains, and there, only on the black currant, which is one of the alternate hosts of the disease.

In Ontario, the problem of eradication is proving even larger than had been anticipated, since, as a result of careful scouting, it has been found in a number of new localities. The infection is very general throughout a radius of about one hundred miles surrounding Toronto, with the worst infections in the Niagara district. The infections in the northern counties of Simcoe, Victoria, Haliburton and Peterborough, are,

according to Mr. W. A. McCubbin, of the Department of Agriculture, in dangerous proximity to the pine area of the Trent watershed. A number of infections in Haliburton are well within this pine area. The infection in the eastern part of the province is, indeed, of quite serious extent.

For the present at least, the work consists mainly of eradication of currants and gooseberries, both wild and cultivated. It has been found that in this way the spread of the disease to the pines can best be prevented. The present outlook for controlling the disease seems to centre on whether wild currants and gooseberries can be completely and economically removed, and whether owners of cultivated currants, particularly black currants, prefer to lose their bushes rather than the pine. The interest of the public in the preservation of the pine is so great that the issue can not remain in doubt. As a matter of fact, the laws provide in a wholly adequate way for the settlement of this question on a basis which recognizes the great public interest at stake.—C. L.

## Hand-Loggers Waste Timber

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of a mountain and at the water's edge, where a destructive fire is most likely to start and gain headway, the resulting debris produces a fire menace of the worst kind.

It is extremely doubtful whether the advantages gained in forest utilization by this means, or the furnishing of employment to the nomadic, irresponsible men who follow the occupation of hand-logging, are commensurate with the resultant damage. Though the discontinuance of hand-loggers' licenses was recommended by the British Columbia Forestry Commission in 1910, they are still issued.

During the last 28 years, hand-loggers have destroyed the timber on over 1,000 miles of shore line extending back from 100 to 1,300 feet, and covering an area of 50,000 acres. Though no figures are available as to the amount of timber cut by hand-loggers, it is estimated from personal observation, that they have marketed perhaps 500,000,000 feet, that they have cut and allowed to go to waste, 300,000,000, and have caused the destruction of an additional 800,000,000 feet through fire and windfall. About 210 of these licenses have been issued annually for the last few years, the annual revenue from which amounts to approximately \$5,000 for license fees, and \$19,000 for royalty, on an average cut of 125,000 feet per license. It would appear that the usefulness of the hand-logging system has passed, and that it should be discontinued as inimical to the objects of forest conservation.—Adapted from 'Forest Resources of British Columbia,' soon to be published by the Commission of Conservation.

## Famine or Food?

Famine has always been a corollary of war. Even minor conflicts have invariably brought about more or less serious want in the nations engaged. At the present time, world famine is within measurable distance. The tremendous waste, coupled with a great decline in the production of foodstuffs is rapidly depleting available supplies and if the war continues for a prolonged period, nothing short of superhuman efforts can prevent the nations participating in it from going hungry.

Millions of the men of Britain, France and Italy are in the fighting line and, obviously, cannot be food producers. In normal times, these countries were dependent on other countries for much of their supplies of foodstuffs, but now they are more than ever so. To outline the situation concretely: It is estimated that the production of wheat in the United Kingdom, Belgium, France and Italy this year will fall short by 500,000,000 bushels of the pre-war average. It should be remembered that in the three years before the war these countries imported together about 750,000,000 bushels annually; also that war conditions make any marked increase in production within the next few years difficult, if not impossible. This deficiency in wheat has its parallel in meats and dairy products and only the most careful management will save the herds of those countries from serious, if not ruinous, depletion.

Such a situation can be mastered by two methods only. First, by conserving existing resources; Second, by increasing production. Both these remedies are receiving attention in the countries at war, but the shortage of land, labour and fertilizers presents almost insurmountable obstacles to any great increase in production in Europe. Further, the shortage of ocean going freighters and the great distance of Australia from the market largely eliminates the Commonwealth as a source of supply.

Canada and the United States must, therefore, in large measure, meet the difficulty. In 1915, slightly more than 39,000,000 acres in Canada were in field crops. In 1916, the area had decreased by nearly 4,000,000 acres. Whether or not this decline is due to shortage of labour, it is a serious falling off in time of war. If men are not available, the labour problem can be met by a much larger use of women on the farms, as well as by the use of larger and more efficient farm machinery. In Britain, many thousands of women have left the cities to work on the land; better machinery has been procured in some cases by the Government, by whom it is leased to the farmers at reasonable rates. In this way Britain has greatly in-

## THE DECREASING MOOSE

The moose once ranged over a whole of our northeastern woods. Now, Minnesota is the only state in the United States where there are enough moose to be killed, and there are not very many there. The state of Maine, which has perhaps the most thorough and enforced game laws with regard to moose of any state, a close season was put in effect in 1915, for a simple reason that there are so many hunters. Along the southern frontier of Canada where the country is brought under development and where the moose once roamed in thousands, you will now seldom find enough moose to make it worth while to hunt them. It is very while in New Brunswick, because there they have been thoroughly protected.

They are scarce even in many outlying districts as, for instance, the Peace River valley, until recently regarded as remote but now thrown open to settlement. In 1912, the Beaver Indians were starved, because they could not get enough meat to keep them alive and one band of Indians travelled 150 miles up the Liard river to hunt moose. Yet a sportsman magazine printed a communication entitled, "A Game in the Peace River Country Unlimited," which showed a glowing picture of moose, deer and antelope roaming the woods in countless numbers. Where did the writer ever see an antelope roaming the woods? It shows that people do not realize the peril of fronting our animals.—F. K. V. in 'Fish, Birds and Game' published by the Commission of Conservation.

## SCRAP METAL ON THE FARM

Farmers may not realize that they are unpatriotic if they are not selling their worn-out machinery and implements.

Large quantities of iron and steel are needed for guns, shells, bridges and other war purposes. There are many farms on which a good deal of junk is to be found. Higher prices are being paid for scrap metal than formerly, but, in order to save unnecessary expense in getting to the foundries, neighbouring farmers might co-operate and make one hauling do instead of seven.

A Southern California judge recently sentenced a man to 30 days in goal for leaving an unextinguished fire in a National forest. This sentence was later changed to one of debarment of the offender from a National forest for a period of one year.

Increased her production of foodstuffs, in spite of the tremendous drain that the war has made on the man-power of the country. Canada can, and doubtless will, follow the lead of the motherland.—A. J. P.