

The White Spruce (*Picea canadensis*), formerly *P. alba*, makes a fine ornamental tree, but, unfortunately, it has, in recent years, been badly affected with the Spruce Gail louse, which disfigures it very much. While young, or up to perhaps thirty years, the Norway Spruce (*Picea excelsa*), is one of the most attractive evergreens, and is a very rapid grower, but it gets ragged looking as it grows older.

THE FIRE AND THE MUSEUM AT OTTAWA.

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The Museum of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, is to Canada practically what the National Museum is to the United States and the British Museum to the United Kingdom. This museum has been greatly affected by the fire which, beginning about 9 p.m., February 3, 1916, destroyed the Dominion Parliament building, and caused the loss of several lives. Before 2 a.m., February 4, while the flames were still spreading, a member of the Cabinet was considering the use of the large auditorium in the Victoria Memorial Museum building as possibly a suitable place for the meetings of the House of Commons, and members of the Geological Survey were holding themselves in readiness to clear any of the other space necessary.

The Geological Survey occupied practically all the building except the three and a half floors in the east wing and an office which was used by the National Gallery. Each hall and wing is practically one hundred and twenty feet long by sixty feet wide.

About ten a.m., February 4th, the morning of the fire, the Survey staff was informed of the intended use of the building as a temporary home for the Dominion Parliament. The large auditorium with its gallery, which was only partially furnished and had been but little used for lectures, was immediately released from museum uses, and prepared by the Department of Public Works, so that the House of Commons was enabled to begin its session at 3 p.m. or in less than twenty hours after its deliberations had been disturbed by the fire. The throne used by the Governor-General in the privy council room, which was rescued from the fire, served for the Speaker of the House of Commons. A press gallery was built back of the Speaker.