

Pine Blister in Canada

Action Necessary to Locate and Eradicate the Disease

The extreme gravity of the pine blister disease in the United States is evidenced by the recent appropriation of \$300,000 by Congress for assisting the respective states in their efforts to eradicate this menace to the white pine forests of the country. In the several states where white pine occurs, appropriations for this work are now pending, which aggregate some \$220,000. The white pine forests of the United States are variously estimated to have a value of from \$260,000,000 to \$425,000,000.

The white pine of Canada is valued roughly at \$200,000,000. At the recent annual meetings of the Commission of Conservation, Canadian Forestry Association, Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, and Canadian Lumbermen's Association, urgent resolutions were adopted, favouring the appropriation by the Dominion Government of \$50,000, to provide for supplementing the work which will be done by the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec in locating and eradicating the pine blister disease, and for making a general survey of the situation throughout Canada. Scouting is necessary in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to determine whether the disease has yet become established in those provinces; and attention must also be given the forests of western white pine in southern British Columbia.

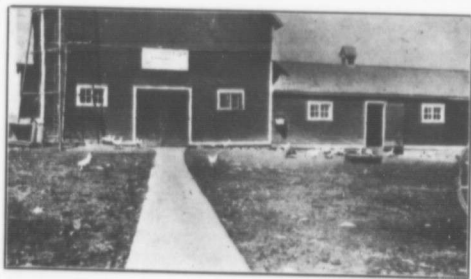
During 1916, much work was done by the Province of Ontario in locating and eradicating the disease. In this work the Dominion Department of Agriculture co-operated, and conducted also, through the office of the Dominion Botanist, some very valuable research work along lines which have an important bearing on the control of the pine blister. Should the proposed appropriation of \$50,000 be granted, these efforts can be materially increased, especially in connection with scouting and the eradication of diseased plants. The Department of Lands and Forests of Quebec will wage a vigorous campaign against the pine blister disease during the current year, and in these efforts it is important that the Dominion Government should co-operate on an adequate scale. The whole situation is now being considered by the Government, and it is anticipated that favourable action will be taken.—C.L.

In piles of trash or old rags a process sets in that, under certain conditions, may produce heating, and sometimes, in the end, fire. Greasy or oily rags are especially dangerous.

Concrete on the Farm

The Laying of Walks Around Farm Buildings a Convenience

This has been called the age of concrete. The statement applies to the farm as elsewhere. Concrete floors and walls in a granary will keep out rats. Concrete floors in the stables will prevent the loss of the liquid manure and assist the farmer in the conservation of its fertility. Concrete is useful in



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A Convenient Farmyard Walk

curbing and covering the well to keep out dirt and disease. It can also be used for the floors of garages, which are rapidly increasing on farms. Other uses for concrete are numerous, but there is one purpose for which it is seldom used, i.e., laying a walk from the house to the barn. The accompanying illustration shows a concrete walk. If such a walk were provided from the barn to the house the farmer could come to the house without getting his feet muddy, which would be highly appreciated by the housewife. The man upon whose farm this picture was taken stated that he had laid this walk two years ago, but that, if he had known what a convenience it would be he would have constructed it many years ago. He says he would not now be without it for three times what it cost.—F.C.N.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture must not only be self-supporting, but, in large degree, agriculture must support our other great industries. Without agriculture, the coal and iron would be left in the earth, the forest would be left uncut, the railroads would be abandoned, the cities depopulated, and the wooded land and waterways would again be used only for hunting and fishing. Shall we not remember, for example, that the coal mine yields a single harvest—one crop—and is then forever abandoned; while the soil must yield a hundred—yes, a thousand crops, and even then it must be richer and more productive than at the beginning, if those who come after us are to continue to multiply and replenish the earth.—Cyril G. Hopkins, of University of Illinois.

B. C. Forest

Service

Staff to be Selected and Controlled Under Civil Service Regulations

For many years there has been agitation in favour of civil service regulation of the appointment of officials in outside services of the Dominion and Provincial Governments. So far as forestry and for-

est fire protection work is concerned, this reform has been consistently advocated by such agencies as the Commission of Conservation, Canadian Forestry Association and Canadian Society of Forest Engineers.

A notable beginning in the actual accomplishment of this reform has now been made in British Columbia, as the result of a report made for the Provincial Government by Dr. Adam Shortt, of the Dominion Civil Service Commission, following an investigation of the conditions on the ground. Like other branches and departments of the provincial service, the British Columbia Forest Branch will benefit largely by the new plan of making field appointments. Beyond question, both efficiency and economy will be promoted under the arrangement recently adopted, which will govern in the selection of all assistant forest rangers to be employed by the Forest Branch in the future.

Examinations have been held during the months of March and April at some 35 points throughout the province, to test the qualifications of applicants for the positions of assistant forest rangers. At least 65 such appointments are to be made, the employment to be for a period of six months each year, with opportunity for advancement to the permanent force. Returned soldiers with the necessary qualifications will be given preference. The examination is of a thoroughly practical nature, consisting of questions on logging, cruising, surveying, forest protection, etc., in addition to a full statement of the candidate's previous education, training and experience.

The selection of men to fill the

vacancies in the position of assistant forest ranger west of the Coast range will be in the hands of the newly-constituted Forest Protection Board. The Board consists of the Deputy Minister of Lands, the Chief Forester, the Assistant Forester in charge of fire prevention, and two lumbermen selected by the coast associations of lumber and shingle manufacturers, loggers and timber owners. The lumbermen's representatives are E. J. Palmer of Chemainus, and D. Rector of Vancouver. For the work east of the Coast range, there is a similar board, the two lumbermen representatives, selected by the Mountain Lumbermen's Association, being C. D. McNab of Waldo, and Neale Murray of Kamloops.

These two boards will not only make appointments to the forest ranger staff, but will have general supervision over the important matter of protecting the provincial forests from fire. This is a new departure, but is justified by the fact that the timber owners are required by law to contribute one-half the fire protection fund, which aggregates more than \$250,000 annually. In addition to the permanent ranger staff, and to the assistant rangers who will be on duty six months of the year, a number of patrolmen will be selected, for short term employment during the height of the danger season. The two boards will also have the selection of these men, thus taking the whole matter out of politics and placing it on the basis of business efficiency.

This is the first example of a non-political forest fire prevention service in Canada. The Dominion Government is definitely pledged to a somewhat similar course as to outside appointments in the Dominion Forestry Branch, but action has been delayed pending further consideration by Parliament of the report made by Sir George Murray, which strongly advocated the extension of the civil service principle of making all appointments on the basis of merit only.—C.L.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

One of the great movements of our time is the movement for the conservation of our natural resources. We have gone on as if the world were coming to an end when we were dead. Now we are getting a better perspective. The conservation movement, as was natural, was at first most conspicuously identified with the conservation of our forests and our water power, but it must extend beyond the forests and water power. It is our most immediate concern, in connection with the conservation of the soil, for even our brief history tells us that fertile fields may become abandoned farms through other causes than lack of rainfall.—Governor Frank O. Lowden, of Illinois, in inaugural address.