

BLISTER RUST WAR

Detwiler Praises Work of C. C. C. in Reporting Eradication of Seventy Million Bushes

The summer campaign against the white pine blister rust, which threatens the very existence of the valuable forests of white pine in more than half of the states, advanced on a wider front and with more encouraging results than in any previous year, according to S. B. Detwiler of the Department of Agriculture. Detwiler credits the high record of the Civilian Conservation Corps men detailed to the work. Several states also were active because of funds provided under N. R. A.

The Federal-State cooperative campaigns were restricted somewhat by reduced appropriations, and this season the C. C. C. workers covered a greater area and destroyed more of the infective gooseberry and currant bushes than all the other agencies combined. Returns to date show that the C. C. C. working in 21 states have cleared 49,000,000 bushes from a total of 574,447 acres.

Eradication work under N. R. A. programs accounts for destruction of almost 16,000,000 bushes on 89,000 acres. The regular blister rust control work of federal, state, and private agencies cleared approximately 8,000,000 bushes from 300,000 acres. The totals, which may be increased slightly by late returns, reveal the removal of 70,000,000 bushes from nearly a million acres of land in 27 States.

The blister rust that kills white pine is not like the chestnut blight which cannot be stopped by any method known to science. The blister rust can be controlled at a cost which the owners of white pine timberland can afford to bear. The campaigns of the last few years have been improving consistently, says Mr. Detwiler, as the federal and state leaders have become more familiar with the work and have devised more economical methods of scouting and eradication.

Labor costs vary so widely that control work must be considered in terms of man days, rather than in dollars and cents. In the eastern sections, only a small part of a man day is required to protect an acre; one man day is approximately the average in the great western areas of white pine. The costs in man days in the northeast, it is pointed out, are lower because of the relatively few Ribes per acre; the slight increase in man labor in the west is due to the increased number of the Ribes plants which must be removed. Owners can well afford this man labor every five years when the alternative is destruction of the valuable stands of white pine timber or the preventing of reseedings.

Detwiler reports that almost without exception, the C. C. C. workers, although untrained in work in the woods, were effective and often enthusiastic eradicators under the guidance of trained men.

The Need For Reforestation

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Times Union:—When President Roosevelt announced his plans for the Civilian Conservation Corps, which is giving employment to thousands in reforestation camps at many points about the country, most people thought of the project only as a new way of dealing with the unemployment situation. Able-bodied young men who had not succeeded in finding jobs were to be given something fairly useful to do, the nation figured, they would be paid enough for their services to allow a portion to be sent home, and everybody would be satisfied. That was the first view of the new scheme, and it is only recently that the country has begun to realize that the reforestation work is of great value, and that the young men of the C. C. C. camps are performing a great public service.

Charles L. Pack, president of the American Tree Association, has this to say on the subject:

"On the average, 50,000,000 acres of national, state, and privately owned forest land are swept by forest fires every year. This loss alone averages \$200,000 a day. We use in this country fourteen and one-half billion feet of wood a year, and yet fire, disease and insects destroy one and one-fourth billion feet every year.

"The forest workers in the C. C. C. are now working on projects for elimination of tree and insect diseases and for protecting the forests in the most effective way against fire losses. If this work proves successful, and there is every reason to believe it will, hundreds of millions of dollars per year will be saved and the forests so greatly improved that the future will see them returning most satisfactory dividends."

We need our forests, and the fires such as were experienced in Suffolk a few days ago inflict a great loss annually upon our natural resources. Plainly, the reforestation work now going on is of great importance, and the Civilian Conservation Corps is rendering valuable service.

East Buys of the South and West

Eleven of the northeastern states produce only 3.8 per cent of the lumber manufactured in the United States. Recent statistics indicate, according to comparisons worked out by the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, that of this small amount of timber Maine produces the most, Pennsylvania next, and New York third. The kind in greatest demand is yellow pine. Alabama is the largest producer of yellow pine lumber. Douglas fir comes next and ponderosa pine next. None of these species of trees grows in commercial quantity in the East, where the largest market exists for this softwood lumber. Tennessee is the largest producer of oak lumber. South Carolina is the largest producer of red gum. While the East formerly supplied the market with white pine, today Idaho turns out more white pine lumber than any other state. Washington produces more lath and more shingles than any other state.

FOREST 25 YEARS OLD

Director Fisher Outlines Work at Petersham and Tells of the Progress Made There

By R. T. FISHER, Director

Completing 25 years of development as a demonstration tract on a sustained yield basis and as an experiment station for research, the Harvard Forest has "a record of continuity in intensive silvicultural practice . . . probably unequalled in America."

Since first put under management it has marketed in round figures seven million feet of lumber and three thousand cords of wood, and (up to 1932) secured an income sufficient to maintain its building and equipment, with a small surplus for forest improvement.

The total growing stock has been enlarged by twenty per cent, the annual increment by thirty-five per cent, and the distribution of age substantially improved. From the studies and experiments that have had a prominent part in the management, it has been possible to work out the phases of succession, due largely to human occupation and misuse, from the original forest to the degenerate types of today, and to show what associations of species are best suited to the local sites.

Experience at Petersham, Mass., has helped bring foresters to a realization of the present large and increasing preponderance of inferior species in New England woodland and developed the technique and shown the profitableness of weeding young stands to better composition and production.

It has shown also some fundamental facts about how the kinds of trees in a stand effect the quality of timber and the fertility of the soil. Pure white pine, as in plantations or old field stands, produces relatively low grade timber and tends to reduce soil fertility. Mixed stands of the better hardwoods or hardwoods and pine conduce to active soil fertility and a better grade of timber, besides being more resistant to insects and disease.

Thus for many years now the policy on the Forest has been to convert the prevailing old field white pine type of the region into mixtures of hardwood or hardwood and pine, and to certain coniferous types only on the sandy or swampy sites. Results of this policy are now to be seen in stands of exceptionally high prospective grade and productiveness, and in some cases nearly fifty feet high.

As showing that these developments go far toward defining a sound regional forestry and in view of the occasion, it may be permissible to quote a letter from Col. W. B. Greely written in 1928 when he was Chief of the Forest Service: "The two days at Petersham last August stand out as red letter events for many reasons, among them that I felt closer on that occasion to native American silviculture than at any other time in my life."