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 45,000,000 bushes from a total of 57,447 acres and eradicated.

Eradication work under N. R. A. programs accounts for destruction of almost 16,000,000 bushes on 89,000 acres of a man day is required to 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 the time, are 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 so successful in planting cones that Mr. Detwiler, as the federal and state leaders have become more familiar with the work and have devised more economical methods of cutting and eradicating. 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. Overall, this man labor every five years when the alternative is destruction of the valuable stands of white pine timber or the preventing of reseeding.

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, he mentioned 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 employed 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 M. Goodspeed, 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 cut over by fire 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 insect work are responsible for 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 the protection of our 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 cause 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 of lumber 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 the 16 states of trees 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 for oak.

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.