

# The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

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FENELON FALLS, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1914.

No. 22

## FOR 1914

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## SOME INFORMATION ABOUT EVERGREENS

How to Tell the Different Varieties of Pine—the White a Giant Tree

To the observer and lover of Nature, the pine trees of Canada give infinite delight. From one end of the country to the other, they adorn the fields, the woodlands, and many a lofty hilltop. When many other trees of the forest are stripped of their glory, these, claiming all seasons for their own, provide evergreen foliage which protects the weary traveler from the hot suns of summer and the stormy blasts of winter.

The pines stand among us as representatives of an ancient race. They were known in Bible times, being mentioned in Sacred Scripture. There are several species of pine. Amongst the most important is the White pine, which grows to a height of about 200 feet, attaining an age of from two to three hundred years. From the stem of this tall tree project large branches, from which spring smaller ones, bearing the twigs, on the end of which are tassels, composed of green needle-shaped leaves of a feathery lightness and arranged in clusters of five. This tree flowers in the spring, and the fruit ripens into long, slender, woody cones within two years. The cones appear either in pairs or several together, and are found projecting horizontally from the branches, to which they often cling for several years. In color they are green at first, but later become brown, eventually falling, to remain for many years unchanged on the ground.

Beneath the scale of the cone, when opened wide we find nestled at the base two little seeds in twin boxes, each provided with a little wing so that it can sail off with the wind to find a place to grow. The pine is one of the most useful trees, providing us as it does, with the material for our homes.

Though found in poor soils, and in the same localities, the Red or Norway pine, is less common and less valuable than the white pine. It grows to a height of about 150 feet, having a large diameter, and can be easily recognized by its reddish bark. The long, slender needles, which grow in pairs, are half-round, and are more or less covered with a glaucous bloom. The wood of the Red pine is used extensively for interior building purposes. This variety is valuable for planting as a landscape tree on account of its beauty of foliage and rapidity of growth.

Amongst the most valuable and best known of our native conifers is the Pitch pine. It usually grows to a height of 80 feet. The bark of the trunk has scales like the covering of an alligator. The color of the foliage is lighter than the White pine; the needles are stiff and coarse and in bundles of three; the cones are large and very much broader than those of the White pine, the scale being armed with a stout, sharp spike at the middle of the outer margin. The cones remain on the tree after the winged

seeds have been shed, so that one of the easiest ways of recognizing the tree is to look for these broad, short cones hanging from the older branches.

The Grey, or Jack pine, is a small tree quickly distinguished from all its neighbors by a dark reddish bark upon the trunk, and gray-green foliage clustered on short branches, giving a sombre aspect to the tree. After the seeds have been scattered from them, the small, short cones cling for several years to the branches. Under adverse conditions of soil and moisture the Jack pine is very hardy and thrifty.

The pines, which are the harps of the lonely places, are very susceptible to the wind. When stirred by the breezes, they send forth strains of music which delight the ear. When in a meditative mood there is no place more luring than a fragrant pine wood, filled with the musical undertone of its own soft and low murmurings, for courting that quietness, so essential as a preparation for the incoming of high and noble thought.

Setting aside the economic value of the pines their magnificent beauty should alone render them worthy of protection and preservation. Therefore we should use all our influence to save them from destruction, and should see that no tree is needlessly sacrificed.

## PRESERVING FENCE POSTS

Creosote Pays For Itself in Lengthening Life of Wood

Wood-rot, in all its forms, is due to the action of fungi working under suitable air and moisture conditions. In fence posts these conditions are most favorable at or near the surface of the ground and hence it is there that decay first starts. Some woods, like cedar and tamarack, are more resistant to fungus attack and may last, as fence posts, from eight to ten years. Unfortunately, however, the supply of these woods has grown very scarce, and one is faced with the alternative of importing durable material at a high price or of applying preservatives to the common non-durable woods which grow in the wood lot. The latter alternative is not only cheaper, but also much more effective.

Creosote, a "dead" oil of coal tar, is perhaps the best preservative for this purpose, as it does not dissolve out of the treated wood, when in contact with moist earth. It costs from eight to fifteen cents per gallon.

There are two methods of applying the creosote, but before either method can be applied it is necessary to have the posts well seasoned if the best results are desired. This seasoning is best accomplished by peeling the bark from the posts and then stacking them in loose piles in the open air for several months.

Then they can be given two coats of creosote with a brush or dipped to a point six inches above the ground line. In either case the creosote should be heated to the boiling point.

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## Plan Ahead for the Children's Education

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Fenelon Falls Branch

M. W. Reive, Manager.