

the original infection dated back about ten years; the disease is now well underway in Henderson County.

Before this giant leap of the chestnut blight it had been though feasible to check the disease by cutting down all the chestnuts in a wide swathe around the main area of infection and so "firing back" in the way that prairie fires are stopped. The outbreak of the disease in the Saluda district removes all hope of this.

The big chestnut tan bark companies in North Carolina, where the finest stands of chestnut in this country are located, are undecided whether it will be best to lumber over all the available chestnut at once and so drug the market or to cut slowly and run the risk that the blight will get there before the sawmill. Blight-killed trees are useless for the tanning industry.

Chinese and Japanese chestnuts, with which the Department of Agriculture hopes to replace the native species, are reported to be very successful in all trials thus far. The Chinese chestnut promises to fulfill the three requirements of a perfect chestnut; it will develop blight-resistant strains, furnish a bark useful in tanning, and produce good nuts for eating.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS DECREASE 10 PER CENT. IN YEAR JUST ENDED

The year 1924 has won the honor of having had the lowest mortality rate ever recorded among the wage-earning populations of the United States and Canada. Statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company have announced that based upon returns from fifteen million records a substantial decline in death rate as compared with 1923 is assured, although all reports are not yet in.

Heart disease, as in 1923 and 1922, will be the leading cause of death but the mortality, nevertheless, will be much lower than in 1923. Since 1911 there has been a decline of 20 points per 100,000 in the heart disease death rate.

The great health achievement of the year has been the marvelous reduction in the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis. The rate this year will be slightly over 90 per 100,000 persons exposed. This marks a decline of 10 per cent. in one year. In 1911 the rate from this cause was more than twice the 1924 figure.

Pneumonia will be the third cause numerically. For the few diseases that show higher rates in 1924, either the increase has been small or the disease itself is of relatively minor importance numerically.

Present indications are that 1924 will be the first year since the automobile has become a means of transportation that the death rate from its casualties will not increase. Up to December 13 the 1924 rate was identical with that for the same time last year.

Sawdust briquets make excellent fuel for the kitchen range, being cheaper than coal, and having hardly any ash, no clinker, and very little smoke.
