

Two Letters on *Pinus Banksiana*.

DR. N. L. BRITTON:

DEAR SIR.—I was observing a note of yours made in the BULLETIN some years ago, in regard to the size of *Pinus Banksiana*. The largest trunk I ever saw grew in the southeastern part of Grand Traverse County, Michigan. I have a cut three feet long in our museum; the top end, including the bark, is just one foot and a half in diameter, measured in either of two directions. It is perfectly sound. Several others nearly as large have been seen in various parts of the state.

At the mouth of the Au Sable River entering Lake Huron, in poor, sandy land, these trees grow very slowly. Many of them have a clean trunk for three to eight feet and a spreading top considerably like that of a well-shaped apple tree. I am told that this shape is common in Northern Minnesota. Large areas of sandy land in Crawford and Osceola counties are mainly covered with Jack Pines. In many places the trees are "stocky," twenty to forty feet high, with limbs near the ground and a wide-spreading, conical top. The people in the vicinity speak of them as "Black Jack Pines" or "Buckwheat Pines." They are making a comparatively rapid growth. In places where the soil is apparently a little better these trees are thicker and taller, with straight, slender, nearly cylindrical trunks forty to sixty or seventy feet high, and a diameter from eight inches to a foot or more. Such trees are called "Yellow Jack Pines," and as they have small bushy tops, make only a slow growth.

Many people believe that the pitch and leaves of *Pinus Banksiana* are poison to the ground, so that little else will grow near them. It is needless to say, there is no foundation for this notion.

Occasionally the trunks of good "Yellow" Jack, are used for cutting into lumber of an inferior quality, which is graded as "Norway" pine. The timber is also, to some extent, used for fence posts and stove wood.

I have seen this pine in the sand south of Lake Michigan in northwestern Indiana.

W. J. BEAL.

AGRIC. COLLEGE, MICH., June 11, 1890.

PROF. J. S. NEWBERRY:

DEAR DOCTOR.—Miss E. Torrey brought me over yesterday some back numbers of the BULLETIN to look at. In the one for November, 1889, I find two papers (by E. L. Rand and J. H. Redfield) on the most southern station yet found for *Pinus Banksiana*. Turning to BULLETIN, August, 1882, I read: "Appalachia for June contains a few notes on the flora of the White Mountain region, and the statement is made that *Pinus Banksiana* has been detected on Welch Mountain (lat. $43^{\circ} 55'$ N. long. $71^{\circ} 35'$ W.)"

In Appalachia, June, 1882, J. H. Huntington writes (page 65): "There was also found on Welch Mountain the gray scrubpine, *Pinus Banksiana*. This is thought to be farther south than any point where it has been previously seen."

The facts in the case are as follows: August 9, 1881, my sister, Miss Edith W. Cook, being on Welch Mountain, Thornton, Grafton Co., N. H., found sundry stunted specimens of *Pinus Banksiana* on the mountain top (2,500 or 2,600 ft. high). She brought to me some branches and some of the lop-sided cones. I sent specimens of the same to Prof. Huntington, who was Councillor of Natural History to the Appalachian Club for that year. He issued the notice given in the "Appalachia" of the following June (1882), whence it was copied into the BULLETIN for August, 1882.

I know that botanists receive with difficulty the testimony of any eyes but their own; hence I sent specimen and cone to Prof. Huntington, who thus made the statement on his own positive knowledge. My sister and myself have never seen the tree elsewhere.

I enclose a little branch-end, and only wish I had one of the characteristic cones to send. But I have only one left, and must keep that as a proof for the sceptical.

Very truly yours,

LUCIA G. PYCHOWSKA.

HOBOKEN, N. J., April 27, 1890.