

five seedlings on the burned plot were more than two feet tall, while 281 seedlings on the unburned plot were from two to seven feet in height.

Observations on the Roberts' plots are made every year, so that the results of this experiment can be brought right up to date. In January 1921 the burning process was repeated as usual on one of the plots inside the fence. Although the time chosen was very favorable, being two days after a rain which had converted nearby country roads into quagmires, and although four men and a boy were on hand with pine boughs to control the flames, the fire for a few minutes got beyond all control. Before it could be gotten in hand again it had burned over about one eighth of the plot which had been kept "rough" for so many years, to say nothing of having quite consumed a perfectly good coat which one of the men had indiscreetly hung on a fence post. For the first time a large proportion of the seedlings between six and twenty-four inches on the repeatedly burned plot succumbed to the fire. This was not because the fire was any hotter than previous fires, but because the vigor of the seedlings had been lowered by six years of deliberate mistreatment to a point where recovery was not possible, and because the majority of the seedlings had reached a size which is particularly sensitive to fires. It may seem odd that a seedling six inches to twenty-four inches in height cannot resist a fire as successfully as one less than six inches in height, but the explanation appears to be quite