

Crown lands that have been, are being, or may in the future be transferred over. For a few years past the Department of Agriculture, through its Forestry Branch, has been endeavoring to encourage farmers to plant those portions of their farms which are least suitable for grain growing or pasture, and plans are in preparation which will supply material to the farmers at a minimum cost. Here and there throughout the Province there are considerable areas which at one time carried fine forests. These forests have been cut away, the land has been cropped more or less, and when the soil is of a very light nature, it has run out leaving sandy stretches which have had to be abandoned as farm land, or which are now producing a very small return. The Ontario Department of Agriculture has commenced a system of local municipal forest reserves. The lands are bought in at very low rates. Where there are trees, these are being carefully protected from fire and the running of live stock; where there is little or no tree growth, seedlings will be set out from the Government nurseries. It is expected that within a few years blocks of municipal forest reserves will be established in different parts of the Province, varying in extent from five to twenty thousand acres each. It may be found advisable to take in even larger areas. Up to the present time the Forestry Branch of this Department has surveyed and examined about 125,000 acres of land in the old settled portion of the Province suitable for this purpose.

To sum up, the present tendency of the agriculture of this area is to put back into forest growing, land which has been over cropped, and is now run down and unsuitable for agricultural purposes; to bring into productiveness by draining, land which is now low lying and too wet, and to develop still further upon the farms of the Province the keeping of live stock and the production of beef, bacon, butter, cheese, fruit and special crops; so that it may be considered as fairly conclusive that the general tendency is towards the preservation and conservation of the soil fertility in this area.

The second area is that of newly settled lands lying in Northern Ontario, but mainly on the south side of the height of land. These are scattered; one block is in the Rainy River country adjoining the State of Minnesota; another is in the vicinity of Lake Temiskaming; others are along the north shore of Lake Huron, etc. In these sections agriculture as yet has only a divided interest, the settlers being concerned partly in the production of lumber and pulp wood and partly in the cultivation of their fields. The soil is quite rich, and the aim is to encourage settlers to introduce live stock at as early a