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Planting The Sand Banks of Prince Edward County

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During the spring of this year the Forestry Branch of the Ontario Government has been carrying on planting operations in connection with the reclaiming of certain needy areas in Prince Edward County. The area where this work has been done is a section of land situated about 9 miles south-west of the town of Picton. It consists of a narrow triangular piece of sand formation, which separates West Lake from Lake Ontario and extends for 5 miles south and east from the town of Wellington.

In the memory of residents in the neighborhood, all the sand at one time was quite near the shore of Lake Ontario. It consisted of high hills and deep swampy tree growth, and the latter with thick cedar swamps and areas suitable for pasture. But as time went on, the oft repeated foolishness of clean cutting wooded areas on poor soil was indulged in, the trees were removed, with the result that the fine particles of sand of which the hills were composed, commenced to drift and despoil forest land and good agricultural soil as it was driven by the prevailing north-west winds.



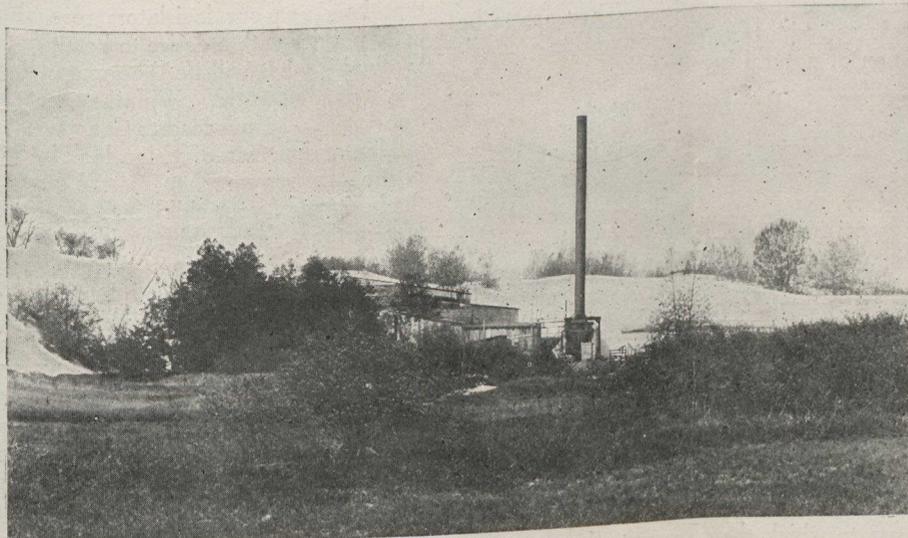
Blocking the sand dunes of Prince Edward County, Ontario, by planting trees. The planting gang is putting in willows and poplars. The willows in the background have attained their remarkable height in ten years.

Oat Crops Ruined.

The large areas occupied by grassy hollows have long since been buried, the good agricultural soil, which is capable

of producing 75 bushels of oats to the acre, has been inundated to the depth of thirty feet. Excellent cedar stands have been covered and killed, and then uncovered again as the sand moved slowly but steadily on its way. The original roads of the community now lie under 30 feet of waste, and one section of the thoroughfare has been laid out four times. To-day when you follow the road, as it makes a wide detour from its rightful position, the sand monster is seen, suggestive of some insidious serpent as it sneaks its way through the forest and over fields in crop.

For a number of years sporadic attempts to hold the sand were made, clumps of Willow were set out and brush fences were tried but with little result. In 1911, however, the farmers who were being "buried alive" secured a small grant from the Township Council for the purpose of planting trees. Several rows of "Holland" Willow were ploughed in along a part of the roadway with excellent results. To-day these trees have effectively accomplished their purpose. They aver-



Foot by foot the sand dunes of Prince Edward County, Ontario, creep forward, completely submerging all land and buildings in their path. The picture shows an abandoned mill which is already partly buried.