



CANADA

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## SIX MILLION TREES PLANTED

"Like a traveller on the Sahara coming into an oasis, the stranger driving south of Saskatoon through wind-driven clouds of prairie soil comes suddenly into the green shelter of tree belts near Conquest, Saskatchewan," says the 1958 report of the Canadian Forestry Association.

Eight townships of typical Saskatchewan wheatland are protected by more than 700 miles of field shelter belts. This is an imaginative 24-year project, and at present well over 6,000,000 trees have been planted in this area. Experience has proved north-south rows 220 yards apart to be most effective.

The programme began in 1935 when the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Authority undertook to demonstrate tree planting on a 63 square-mile area at Conquest, Saskatchewan. Trees were provided by the Federal Department of Agriculture forest nursery stations at Indian Head and Sutherland, Saskatchewan.

### PROVINCIAL AID

The plan was an immediate success, and the provincial government entered the programme with an earned-assistance programme. Under this scheme, shelter-belt areas have been established at Outlook, Assiniboia, Swift Current, Davidson, Whyward, Colonsay, Biggar, Delisle, Wilkie, Melfort-Star City-Tisdale, Ogema, and in other areas.

It is estimated that approximately 4,000 miles of shelter belts have been planted in Saskatchewan.

Peter Kennedy, one of the early exponents of tree planting in the Conquest area, began his field shelter belts in 1920, long before the government projects originated.

With his son Hugh, he planted over 150,000 trees by hand--the power-operated tree planter which contributed to the success of today's programme was not yet invented.

The value of shelter belts cannot be measured in dollars and cents. With an estimated tree life of 50 years, costs total a negligible 4 cents per acre--and this is practically all covered by government grants. The owner provides time and assistance in planting, and machinery for occasional cultivation.

The prairie areas of Saskatchewan have suddenly become tree-conscious, as year by year the advantages of shelter-belt planting become more apparent. Five-hundred-mile auto tours to attend tree-planting field days are not uncommon.

Morley Crowle, Agricultural Representative of Weyburn, recently organized a 26-car convoy to attend a demonstration at Conquest, Saskatchewan. More than 80 travellers, representing ten of the 13 rural municipalities in Agricultural Representative District No. 7, made the trip.

### COUNCILLORS VIEW PROJECT

"Tree planting in my district has been a very insignificant programme," Mr. Crowle said, "and the objective of the tour was to

(Over)