

examined. In 1960 a detailed study of the soil and water, forest, wildlife and plant resources of a 2,600-acre bog area near the city of Peterborough was made.

Reports accompanied by maps and charts are compiled from the survey information made on land use in the valley or study area. In this report the Authority gets an assessment of the physical problems of the land in their area together with recommendations for better management of their soil and land resources. These reports are of interest not only to the Authority members but also to the staff of other government departments and organizations as well.

FOREST

Introduction

Forestry is the production of a crop of trees from which products of commercial value may be harvested. The only difference between the farm crop and the forest crop is that the farm crop is sown and harvested each year, whereas the annual forest crop must be allowed to accumulate for a number of years until the trees have sufficient volume to be worth harvesting.

Reforestation has as its starting point the gathering of tree seed of suitable species in required quantities. Most of the gathering is done in Ontario by the Department of Lands and Forests. Trees are then grown from seed in Government nurseries, three of which are in Southern Ontario. Trees are supplied to farmers throughout the Province and millions are planted on Crown land, but the greatest reforestation effort of the Government in the south has been with the counties and Conservation Authorities and a few townships. The area of reforestation planted by each of these bodies is:

Counties.....	94,101 acres (1959)
Conservation Authorities.....	50,000 acres (1960)
Townships.....	1,774 acres (1960)

While nurseries were first started in 1905, the present program of county and township forests did not get into its stride until 1922. The work was expanded with the formation of the first Conservation Authorities under The Conservation Authorities Act of 1946. Though much has been accomplished since then the amount of reforestation which has been done is only a small percentage of what is required.

The woodlots of Southern Ontario are a valuable asset both to individuals and to the economy of the whole Province. Heretofore the emphasis on farm forestry has been placed on the necessity of replanting unproductive parts of the farm. However, proper management and protection of existing farm woodlots should come first. It is just as essential to conserve what is already established as to wait for the maturing of a planted forest. Much progress has been made in assisting farmers in proper management, including thinning and improvement in their woodlots. The Trees Conservation Act has stopped clear-cutting of woodlots in counties where this Act has been applied and enforced. However, further assistance should be given to encourage farmers to appreciate adequately the value of their woodlots and to assist them in marketing their products when they are available.

Many wood-using industries operate in Southern Ontario. These include sawmills, pulpmills, veneer factories, furniture factories, as well as others requiring special products. These industries use large supplies of lumber, most of which is brought from Northern Ontario, Western Canada and the United States. Smaller quantities are purchased throughout the agricultural regions of the Province. With the exception of the Lanark County Co-Operative, which has a farm woodlot products marketing system, there are no organized methods