

There are many townships having within their boundaries considerable areas of waste lands which after trial have been abandoned as unsuitable for growing field crops. The only hope of restoring such lands to useful production is by reforestation, and there are many good reasons that may be urged for the undertaking of the enterprise by the local municipality.

It would be good policy for the Provinces to assist such municipalities as are willing to establish municipal forest reserves by advancing the money for the purchase of the lands, and by organizing an efficient forest service for their management. In the course of time, varying from 15 years in the more southern parts to 30 or 35 years in northern districts, the townships would be in receipt of a steady and very considerable income from their municipal forests for the easement of local taxation. There are many municipalities in Europe having no higher prices for forest products than obtain in Western Ontario to-day whose income from such municipal forests pays the entire expense of maintaining schools, roads, and other local improvements, and in not a few cases there is a surplus which is annually divided as a cash bonus among the citizens.

Such a system of municipal forest reserves could with the utmost advantage be extended to the newer districts where townships are being opened for settlement. All that would be necessary would in this case be to select and reserve from location at the time of the survey a suitable area in the part of the township least adapted for agriculture. Such reserves being already stocked with merchantable timber would be capable of yielding a revenue to the municipality from the first.

Practical Forest Management.

The central feature of a forest policy and that which gives real worth to all the rest is of course the introduction of a system of practical forest management, having for its aim the perpetuation and improvement of the forest by judicious lumbering.

Canadian forest management will naturally differ widely from European forest management, for our forests, our transportation, our markets, and our people all differ widely. It will also differ somewhat from the forestry of our neighbours to the south, for there are characteristic Canadian conditions to be met—not the least of which is the radical difference in forest ownership and the relations existing between the lumbermen and the State. Canadian foresters may of course learn much from the foresters of Europe and will doubtless learn much more from those of the United States where many of the conditions are very similar, but in the end they must work out their own salvation by the development of a system of Canadian forest management designed especially to meet Canadian forest conditions.