

financial success of some magnitude.

Let us see, then, what is the situation in Simcoe County. There is a total area of over 60,000 acres of waste lands in this county capable of reclamation. Fifty-five thousand acres of it is situated in the townships of Tossorontio, Essa and Sunnidale, the rest lying north of Craighurst and divided between Flos and Medonte townships, and there are the Midhurst Plains in Vespra some five miles from Barrie. All these sandy wastes are incapable of profitable agriculture, though they once supported magnificent pine forests. These waste lands in Simcoe are different from those of Norfolk and other counties in Ontario, in that there is no 'blow-sand' in the Simcoe lands. The surface is to some extent covered with old scrubby seed trees of red and white pine, which experts say would soon give a splendid reproduction of the original forest if it were not for the ever-recurring ground fires, which periodically sweep over these lands, killing the young trees, and also impoverishing the soil by burning up the small amount of leaf litter and other materials which should go to enrich the soil. To the ravages of the fires is added also the industry of the wood thieves which is unremitting.

The problem, therefore, in the reclamation of these waste lands is far simpler than in most places in Ontario where there are waste areas. It is held by the Government forestry experts that the replanting of young trees, which is necessary in Norfolk and elsewhere, is almost wholly unnecessary here. The only attention necessary to reclaim these Simcoe lands would be the prevention of fires, the cleaning up of the land, and the locking up of the wood thieves. Then, as to the cost of upkeep of the necessary attention and superintendence, we have it on the authority of Dr. B. E. Fernow, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Toronto University, that five thousand acres

of naturally grown young timber, such as we have in this county, could be guarded by two men employed all the year round for \$1,000 a year, or a cost with interest of \$112,797 for fifty years. Add to this the original cost per acre with accrued interest for the same term of years, and the total will be the net cost of the 5,000 acres. Then let the County Council Committee estimate the value of the timber crop at the end of fifty years, and they will be able to judge of the wisdom of this reclamation of waste land as an investment.

In our article of three weeks ago we cited the estimate of the profit at the end of 60 years in the Norfolk County plan of reforestation as given by Prof. Zavitz, who is in charge of the work, at \$639.66 per acre. The amount of standing timber on one acre at the end of 60 years being estimated at 80,000 feet B.M., valued at \$10 per thousand, making a gross value of \$800. The cost of the single acre allowing for everything, compound interest at 3½ per cent. during the 60 years, and deducting the original purchase money, would be \$160.34, leaving the net profit for the acre at \$639.66.

This estimate shows a most profitable undertaking in the interest of the province, and considering the main object to be conservation of public benefits in the way of climatic conditions, rainfall and augmentation of economic water power in the streams, it is fully justified in its Norfolk County undertaking. But how very much better still is the prospect for the province in taking hold of the work in this county where it is not a matter of reforestation at all as in Norfolk, but merely reclamation by efficient guardianship of the natural forest growth which now exists.

Prof. Fernow's estimate of the cost of such reclamation as given above is the true basis of computation for the work in Simcoe county and not that in Norfolk.