

Ontario to Establish Demonstration Woodlands

Ontario has taken an important forward step in the encouragement of tree planting on barren areas. Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, recently instructed the Agricultural Representatives of the Provinces in the various counties to take up with the Township Councils the question of establishing demonstration plots of planted trees along well traveled roads. The educational effect of such an enterprise would be incalculable just as demonstration orchards are the most effective form of 'propaganda' in the encouragement of apple production. A letter from the Minister of Agriculture to the Forestry Association states that "the Department is co-operating with the Department of Lands and Forests by endeavoring to interest local Township Councils in the matter and possibly later on giving general supervision to any woodlots which may be established."

Mr. Doherty's letter to all agricultural representatives was as follows:

Toronto, October 4, 1920.

It is the desire of the Government that the reforestation of waste lands be encouraged as generally and as rapidly as possible. In every Township there are areas of land which are used for absolutely no purpose but which would, with attention, produce a crop of timber in a comparatively few years and fully repay the effort and expenditure devoted to the matter. This Department is co-operating with the Forestry Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests in this matter.

To bring this subject prominently to the attention of the people the Government would like to see a demonstration plot established in each township and to this end desires the co-operation of the Township Councils. If the Township Council will purchase an area suitable for this purpose on a well travelled road and have it properly fenced, the Government will undertake to supply and plant trees to reforest such area and look after

it in the early years of growth. Such an area of land should not be less than five acres or more than ten acres.

It is my desire that you should bring this proposition to the attention of the Township Councils in your County. I would suggest that you write a letter to the Reeve of each Township outlining the proposition and that you endeavor to see the Reeve of each township personally and discuss the matter with him or as far as possible attend the meeting of the Township Council at which the proposition is discussed. Please assure the Councils that your services are at their disposal in the selection of land for this purpose, as it will of course be expected that you will give the matter your supervision in any Township in which such demonstration wood lots are established.

It should be possible to have a large number of these demonstration wood lots started next spring and applications should be received before December 31st. It should be clearly understood that all such demonstration plots will be vested in the Township and any profit which may ultimately accrue will go to the Township. The expense involved on the part of any Township Council is small and I feel that the result in the awakening of a greater interest in this most important problem would inaugurate a movement which would be of great value to the permanent development of this Province.

Trusting the matter will have your prompt and continued interest and attention, I am,

Yours very truly,

Manning W. Doherty,
Minister of Agriculture.