

**Forest:**

The total area of the counties of Ontario is 7,500,000 acres. Forest surveys have covered about half of this and the results show that 1,190,070 acres, or 16 per cent, is wooded.

In the area surveyed a total of 900,000 acres has been found to be suitable only for growing trees and has been recommended for inclusion in Authority Forests. Of this land 450,000 acres are at present wooded, 360,000 are open land consisting largely of run-down pasture and 90,000 acres scrub, slash and bog land.

Authority forests, of which there are 15, now comprise 50,000 acres and the present rate of increase is about 6,000 acres per year.

**Water:**

Hydraulic works which have been completed for conservation purposes and their cost may be summarized as follows:

Projects to which Canada has contributed 37½ per cent of the cost	
Large dams and reservoirs .....	\$12,602,915
Smaller projects financed 50 per cent by Ontario and 50 per cent by the Authority	
Channel Improvements .....	\$ 3,671,423
River Diversions .....	1,145,103
Small dams and community ponds .....	1,205,004
Erosion control and other works .....	339,307

This makes the total cost of engineering projects completed to date \$18,963,752. In addition to completed projects others at present underway will cost \$11,000,000.

Besides projects completed and underway, Authorities have prepared plans for projects up to the point of construction estimated to cost \$20,200,000, carried out preliminary engineering on projects estimated at \$68,300,000, and are considering projects which may cost \$16,700,000.

In all flood control schemes at all stages of completion, construction, planning and consideration are estimated to cost \$135,394,000.

**Wildlife:** At the present time the Authorities have developed water for improved fish and wildlife in 16 locations. They have seven fish management projects, two fish-rearing ponds and one fish hatchery. They have two wildfowl improvement projects, two nurseries producing shrubs suitable for wildlife cover and food, and four nature trails. One Authority has successfully introduced Hungarian partridge into its area.

In the larger brief I mentioned parks and recreation, which is part of what we call conservation areas, and up to date the authorities have acquired 25,000 acres of this type of land.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Richardson, for a very valuable brief. Have honourable senators any questions to ask Mr. Richardson?

Senator STAMBAUGH: I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, if any of these conservation projects were utilized for hydro or irrigation purposes or are they just designed to hold the water back?

Mr. RICHARDSON: None of it is used for hydro or electrical power development. That is all handled in Ontario by the Hydro Electric Power Commission. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, there are very few rivers in southern Ontario big enough or whose flow is large enough to develop power. These projects are built mostly for flood control and the conservation of water which is held back in these reservoirs and for flushing rivers in the summertime and dry periods. When the flood period is over in some cases the lake is used as a recreation ground.