



THUNDER BAY TIMBER OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

LOG BOOK

**SPECIAL
TREE FARM
ISSUE**

The purpose of this Bulletin is to tell private owners of woodlots and marginal farm lands the story of how a medical doctor in Fort William, Ontario, Dr. W. P. Hogarth, developed a tree farm in Northwestern Ontario.

In addition, it is hoped that other material in this Bulletin will give woodlot owners some points to think about. It is hoped to discourage the needless and unsound practice of cutting under-sized, immature trees for the sale of their products. Under-sized bolts or logs are not economical to manufacture in the paper mills and sawmills and the producer loses money by cutting small logs from thrifty young trees.

It is worthwhile for timber lot owners or farmers with some of their land producing trees to learn the advantages of good forest management. Forests, which are managed, can be put on a permanent producing basis and furnish the owner with a profit, year after year. Timber can, and should be, treated as a crop. It should be grown on poorer lands, not rich enough for annual farm crops, but this land should be kept producing at its greatest capacity for saleable wood products.

Technical advice on how to start managing the wood lot which YOU own is available from foresters employed by the Government or from company foresters or from private consulting foresters.

**RETURN TO
FORESTRY LIBRARY**

Story of a Tree Farm
by **Walter P. Hogarth, M.B.**
Marathon Corp. of Canada Ltd.
Port Arthur, Ontario

My knowledge of trees and forestry was practically nil, yet when my wife suggested we start a tree farm the idea sounded pretty good. — Here's what happened.

by WALTER P. HOGARTH, M. B.

My property where my experiments in reforestation took place consists of portions of Lots 1 and 2, Concession B.N.R., Township of Paipoonge. They are situated on Rosslyn Road four miles from the western limits of the City of Fort William and hence only about eight miles from my home.

The soil is of light sandy loam and the property is on the highest portion of the land in that neighborhood. There are no creeks near it. Water was secured from a well at a depth of 20 feet. Because the soil is very light it was passed over by the early settlers.

The area, which came under my control, consisted of three parcels which I will describe as follows: Parcel "A" consists of 14 acres. Part of it had been cleared and at various times attempts had been made to grow vegetables without much success. Parcel "B" is made up of 37 acres, 30 of which had been cleared, and at various times planted in hay and oats. Parcel "C", an area of 54 acres which had never been cleared, was mainly jack pine bush. Over the years many large trees had been removed for various purposes and in 1934 the plot had been very thoroughly cut over for cordwood.

The property came under my control in 1936 and I tried to make it carry its way by raising vegetables. This was done with indifferent results owing to the poor quality of the soil in spite of the use of much artificial fertilizer.

In the fall of 1938 my wife suggested that I con-

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CHANGES IN THE ASSESSMENT ACT HELP WOODLOT OWNERS

Paragraph 18 of Section 4 of the Assessment Act states that "One acre used for forestry purposes for every ten acres of the farm in one municipality under a single ownership but not more than 20 acres in all" may be exempt from assessment.

Section 33 (13) "Land used as woodlands within the meaning of paragraph 18a of Section 4 shall be assessed at the same value as it was immediately before set apart for such use and the assessed value thereof shall not be increased by reason of the growth of the timber thereon or be decreased after such timber has been removed."

See your Municipal Clerk about your assessment and exemptions.



Dr. W. P. Hogarth in Red Pine stand planted in 1946

STORY OF A TREE FARM

sider trying to do something with trees. Her only information was that an uncle of hers, farming in Halton County, had secured trees from the Provincial Government for wind-breaks.

My enquiries lead me to the Department of Lands and Forests, Toronto. From there I found that I could secure seedlings from their nursery at Midhurst.

During the winter of 1938-39 I read what I could and asked for some red pine, hard maple, white and Norway spruce. I was a rank amateur and therefore did things the hard way. I selected a fairly open area in Parcel "C", well back from sight of passers-by and personally planted the red pine and the hard maple by digging out a piece of sod about 12 inches square and 4 inches deep and then slit spade planted the seedlings.

Nearly all the pines caught and about 60% of the maples. Very few of the spruce caught. I watched the growth that first summer with real curiosity and a dream started to develop.

I Had A Dream

I am a native of this region and I can remember the stands of timber that were in existence around the turn of the century. I also realized that much of our area was fit for nothing but trees. As far as I could learn no one had ever tried to find out what could be done with reforestation. My dream was that I might experiment in a small way. If it was successful I might turn some of my own unproductive land into a long distance asset. Further, if I had any degree of success I might develop something which might convince the farmers of the district that it would be worth while to turn some of their unproductive land into real woodlots, something that would enhance the value and in the future would provide a regular income by timber farming.

Parcel "C"

In the fall of 1939 I had the stumps removed from a secluded area of about 2 acres in Parcel "C" and had the land ploughed and dragged. In the spring of 1940 I had 1,600 red pines planted in rows 6 feet apart, with the trees staggered in alternate rows. They were planted by the slit spade method and then left alone. About 50% of the red pine survived the winter. All of the maples and most of the spruce were winter killed.

Animals were kept off the land and I had a fire-guard 25 feet wide cleared, ploughed and dragged around this Parcel "C" with its 54 acres.

Naturally I had to consider expense and labour costs and I still was trying to find out what could be done. In 1941 I brought in 5,000 white spruce and 500 Norway spruce and after the vegetables were planted I had the spruce seedlings planted by the slit spade method through the sod in scattered areas in the gaps between the natural growth of jack pine in Parcel "C".

But this experiment was almost a total failure. It was a very dry season and the seedlings were late in being planted although they had been kept heeled in. I was rather surprised, seven years later, to note that many of these spruce seedlings were now 6 to 12 inches high. Why they could lie dormant so long and then start to grow is beyond my knowledge. Each year since, I find more evidence of young spruce until now there are several hundred ranging from 6 inches to 3 feet in height.



Red Pine Planted in 1940 by Dr. Hogarth

In December 1947 I used one of the trees in 1940 for a Christmas tree and found that I cut off some of the trunk to get the tree into the living-room where the ceiling height is 9 feet, 6 inches. Parcel "C" was doing all right.

Parcel "A"

Parcel "A" had been unproductive for some time. I kept seeking information and felt that a map of white spruce was in order. It had been successively with oats, rye and barley in an effort to kill out the couch grass. Finally potatoes had been planted and well cultivated, but the couch grass came out. In the spring of 1942 I had the eastern part of this section dragged and then planted 3,000 white spruce in staggered rows by the slit spade method. Rather to my surprise there was about an 80% catch. No cultivating was done as I was desirous of an experiment. It looked so well that in 1943 I had another 5,000 white spruce planted in this area. Nearly all caught except for a small area which had a raspberry patch. It took three and four plantings eventually fill in this berry patch.

The growth the first few years was very slow but now averages about 12 inches per year. The couch grass is nearly all gone and I am very proud of the stand.

In 1945 I received a request asking me to visit the Department of Lands and Forests the next time I was in Toronto. Rather apprehensive, I visited Queen's Park and eventually found myself before a senior official who seemed very anxious to find out what I was doing with the seedlings secured. I was rather surprised and relieved when I was told that the reason for the questioning was that I had brought in more seedlings from Midhurst than all the rest of Northwestern Ontario put together. This official wanted to know what I was up to and why? Later the Department was told to put up signs on my place designating it as a "Demonstration Plantation".

Naturally I put up the best story I could and emphasized the necessity of an intensive program of reforestation in our area. I also stressed that in my opinion, this program would fail unless a Nursery was established in our district. My experience having been that seedlings from Midhurst were ready for transplanting a few weeks before we in our area could make use of them and this delay did the seedlings no good.

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This leaflet circulated to farmers, settlers, and foresters in Northwestern Ontario.

CANADIAN TREE FARM PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN THE CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Forestry Association has formed a National Tree Farm Committee with representatives from Industry and Government being members of the committee. Local committees are being formed in various parts of the province. These committees will have qualified foresters included in their membership and will be responsible for certifying a TREE FARM. Certificates and signs will be presented to owners of farms that qualify.

It is hoped to encourage all woodlot owners to use good Tree Farm Management practices on their woodlots. A minimum of three acres of woodland is required to be certified as a Tree Farm.

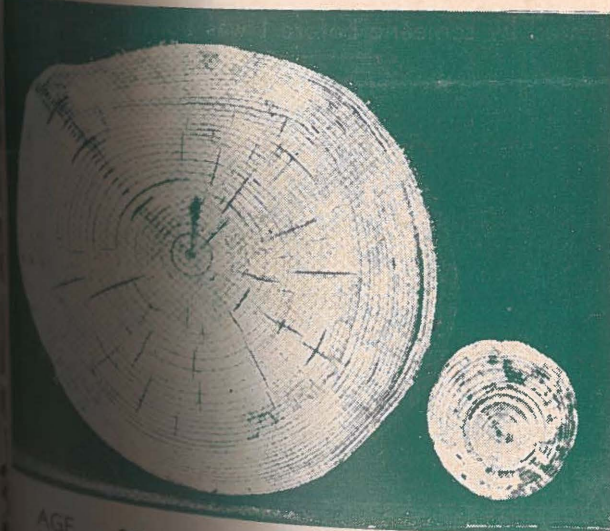
Tree farms will be certified after nomination by local tree farm committees when owners agree to maintain land for growing forest crops; to protect land adequately; agree that cutting practices will be satisfactory to ensure future forest crops and permit inspection by committee foresters.

If you would like your woodlot certified, please send your application to the Editor of this booklet and we will send it to the Canadian Forestry Association for you.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR WOODLOT OWNERS

"PRACTICAL WOODLOT MANAGEMENT"—To Use The Forests Soundly and Profitably by A. J. Cleff, M.F.M.S.F., is a well illustrated and practical book for woodlot owners. Farmers, settlers and other private woodlot owners in Northwestern Ontario who wish to secure a copy of this booklet, please write to the Editor of the LOG BOOK, 3 Tomlinson Block, Arthur, Ontario.

The picture below shows an age comparison between two sticks of wood. The small stick, at an age of 19 years, was cut from a tree yielding only one stick of pulpwood, and at a time when the tree was growing vigorously. The larger stick is twice as old, 39 years, and contains almost 10 times as much wood volume. The picture graphically shows that it is not always advisable to cut a tree just because it is merchantable.



AGE — 39 years
Larger stick had nearly 10 times the volume of smaller

19 years

Larger stick had nearly 10 times the volume of smaller

PRICES RISE AND FALL

Trees are a crop and the forest products grown from trees are affected the same as other farm crops by market conditions. If there are plenty of potatoes available then the price of potatoes goes down. If potatoes are scarce then the price goes up. This business principle — the law of supply and demand — affects pulpwood, lumber, etc., in the same way as everything else.

Since the war, prices for pulpwood, lumber, etc., have risen sharply and the demand has been great. However, last year due to a decrease in demand for pulp (the manufactured pulp) and with a record cut in 1951-52 largely due to almost perfect weather conditions, pulp and paper mills throughout Canada had large inventories of wood on hand. These inventories are being used up and this has resulted temporarily in a weaker market demand. In the case of lumber, the demand has lessened for similar reasons. When the demand decreases, the lowest cost production localities supply a greater share of this limited market, and the high-cost sources get less. So competition develops, not only between different parts of Canada but among woodlot farmers and others in each area.

However, farmers and other private woodlot owners have one great advantage in situations of this kind. Tree crops mature gradually over several years. They do not, as in other farm crops, have to be sold at a set time annually, regardless of market conditions. Instead, trees continue to grow for some years even after maturity, thus permitting a woodlot owner some choice as to when and how he will sell. The long-term outlook for all forest products is very good here. Effort, started now to develop woodlots, is bound to pay off in future years. This is true for all commercial trees growing here, including poplar and birch.

FOREST MANAGEMENT DISCOVERED ON A PRIVATELY OWNED WOODLOT IN THE LAKEHEAD AREA

There are some woodlot owners in the Lakehead area who are practising Forest culture and Forest Management on their woodlots.

One example of this is Carl Sandberg. Carl lives on Lot 59, Concession B, Dawson Road, and owns the adjoining Lot 36, Concession I. He has owned the latter lot since 1938 and the former one since 1932.

Both lots (approximately 150 acres) were well timbered at the time he obtained them from the Crown. He has cut an average equivalent of 75 to 100 cords per year from these lots and he asserts that there is more merchantable wood on them now than when he acquired them.

A short trip through the property with Carl will quickly convince a critical observer that Carl is practising good forest management on his woodlot. He cuts only the mature and over-mature trees and does not strip any area. He takes care to not damage the young growth. He has also done a considerable amount of pruning and thinning in the immature timber. He is aware that certain spots are more suitable for a different species than is now growing there and is trying to promote suitable stocking on such spots.

Carl is convinced that Silviculture on an individual woodlot is good business; he is practising good Forest Management for his own benefit.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT GETTING TREES?

The Forestry Act of 1952 and regulations made under this Act outline the steps to take in getting trees from the Department of Lands and Forests.

Nursery stock may be secured for:

- (a) establishing a wood or shelter belt.
- (b) for enlarging a wood or shelter belt.
- (c) for replenishing a wood or shelter belt.

Anyone wishing to plant trees on private land should contact the local District Forester and request a copy of Form 1.

"Application for Nursery Stock to be furnished in respect of Private Land."

The Department of Lands and Forests forester will visit your farm or land and advise you on the species of tree to be used and assist you in any other way possible. The company to which you sell your pulpwood will also be glad to advise.

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The charge for nursery stock is:

- (a) \$14.00 F.O.B. nursery per 1000 Scotch Pine or
- (b) \$10.00 F.O.B. nursery per 1000 of other species.

Each spring there are 1 to 2 weeks of relatively idle time—after break-up and before spring ploughing can start. This is the time to plant trees.

**ORDER TREES THIS FALL FOR SPRING DELIVERY
DON'T DELAY — ACT NOW!**

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I do not know just how much influence my visit had, but in 1946 the Department of Lands and Forests purchased property across the Rosslyn Road from mine and established the Thunder Bay Nursery for North-western Ontario. Incidentally the co-operation extended by the Department is a wonderful help.

Parcel "B"

By this time I was convinced red pine and white spruce would grow well on my soil but that it was quite apparent the best results would be with red pine. Outside of one small unsuccessful experiment with larch, I have concentrated on red pine since and have gradually filled in Parcel "A". Parcel "B" is completely planted with red pine.

This larger area which had been in grass for 3 years permitted a different sort of planting. A single furrow was ploughed about 4 inches deep and then the seedlings were planted in this furrow. During the last 3 years about 20,000 red pine seedlings were planted in this manner.

Parcel "C", the original jack pine plot has been left alone except for the two acres area of my 1940 planting of red pine and the spruce planted in 1941.

Animals have been kept out and the area protected fire-guard. The natural growth of jack pine has been excellent and the scattered bare areas are gradually filling in with the aid of Nature. I can see that I am going to have to do some selective thinning very shortly.

My Experience

First, if anyone is starting a new plantation or replenishing a woodlot he should get expert practical advice on what and how to plant.

The method of planting is important. If the land has been cultivated, a single furrow and slit planting is satisfactory. If the land has been forested, the slit spade method alone is sufficient. If the land has been sod, I have found the best results are from removing and discarding about a square foot of sod and then planting.

On my particular soil I have found that red pine grows well, the white spruce fairly well. Jack pine outgrows the spruce as proven by a few of them getting into my spruce plot on their own. Norway spruce, larch, black locust, Carolina poplar and hard maple have all been failures; a poor catch, then winter kill.

I have found this work, now 14 years since inception, to have been very fascinating as well as profitable which has given me a great deal of healthful outdoor recreation as I have planted many thousands of these seedlings myself.

I am satisfied that with very little effort in time and practically no expense in money that any owner of a farm can very quickly convert the poor or unproductive portion of his property into a revenue producing asset for the future. It can be done after the spring planting is over and I have found that I can go into virgin soil and plant 50-60 seedlings in an hour or up to 100 in prepared soil or ploughed furrows. The cost of the seedlings is negligible.

—Reprinted from "Forest and Outdoors"

Smart young man seeing a very old man plant a tree.

"Old man, why are you planting that tree? You will never live to enjoy it."

Old man: "I've enjoyed the shade of many a tree planted by someone before I was born!"



TREES ARE A CROP!