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G. B. MacDonald
Iowa State College

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Reforestation Work Under Clark-McNary Act in Iowa

By G. B. MacDonald

During the past few months Iowa has been notified that two thousand dollars will be allotted to the state for cooperative work in connection with tree planting and reforestation work.

For a number of years Iowa State College, through the Forestry Department and the Forestry Section of the Experiment Station, has been maintaining a nursery for the production of forest tree stock suitable for experimental and demonstration planting areas over the state. Already a number of plantations have been established in different parts of Iowa, but this work has been carried on only in a small way, due to the lack of suitable tree stock for the planting operations. The two thousand dollar fund which is coming to Iowa from federal sources will assist very materially in getting some real reforestation work started in the state. The details of plans for the handling of the fund have not yet been worked out. It is quite probable, however, that the money will be used for growing tree stock to be used for strictly reforestation projects. The State of Iowa has hundreds of thousands of acres of land which should be re-planted to timber. Some of this land is owned by the State, but most of it is in private hands.

It is hoped that, as more funds become available under the Clark-McNary Act, larger allotments might be made to Iowa for reforestation work. Even though Iowa is classed as an agricultural state, there is hardly a farm within her boundaries which does not have some waste land which might well be used for reforestation work. If all of the idle acres in Iowa were planted to timber, the revenue to the State would be greatly increased. There are many parts of Iowa also, in which planted timber would serve very nicely for recreational areas. This use would not interfere with the main purpose of planting, which would be for timber production.