

29/3/50

Conservator.

Beallin - Backs Loch.

We have looked into the drainage of this land around this loch and we think that the drainage is possible although there may be some obstruction to the water getting away after an exceptionally high spring & autumn tides. This can be overcome by opening the mouth of the drain into the sea, if necessary, after these tides.

We think that the way to do the work is in the summer time when the water is very low and to commence at the North end of Comp 13. & to work southwards. It will not be possible, or desirable, to take all the water away but we think we can keep the water table down so as to be able to plant in parts of Compts 13, 14, 15 & 63. As a conservative estimate we think 20 Acres may be made to grow trees.

The bottom of the flooded land seems soft & after we dig a part of the channel by hand an excavator could work. We estimate that 250 chains of drains are required & that an excavator could dig those drains in 12 to 15 days. There will also be some work to cut in advance so as to plan out

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the best line for the drains is condensation  
a very flat. As a rough estimate we  
think that \$30 would be required on land  
drainage and about \$50 in cutting the  
lines for carrying purposes. A "digger"  
would of course cut a row of <sup>soil</sup> surface in one  
operation.

In addition before planting there  
would be the cost of \$5 or \$6 per acre  
for a row cutting. The row could be  
left lying to rot & we could plant  
through it. Any work of course will be  
wasted on the sand.

Jas. A. H. H. H. H.

MR. J.A.M. KENNEDY.

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WJ/MVP  
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31st March, 1950.

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MEMO. to Conservancy Engineer.

Culbin - Reclamation Work at Buckie Loch.

Please see the attached interesting memo. from Mr. Kennedy. It seems possible that, by adequate drainage, we may be able to bring in a reasonable acreage of plantable land at a cost per acre considerably lower than our normal sand work at Culbin.

Against this there may be fairly heavy and recurring maintenance costs on drainage.

Will you please look into the proposition with Kennedy at your mutual convenience, and let me have a reasoned estimate of all-in preparation costs (including planting) and an estimate of maintenance costs, after any necessary survey has been made. As regards scrub clearing before planting, this will have to be settled by the forest side, but it may be undesirable to do more than partial clearance.

If the area can have the water table adequately lowered it should help the road construction problem in the Buckie Loch area but we will require to be quite sure that the lowering of the level can be permanent, at a moderate maintenance cost.

Will you please let Mr. Woolridge see the correspondence.

If we decide to go on this summer we may require to apply for money.

(Sgd.) F. OLIVER.  
Conservator.