

Soil tests will tell us how moisture may best be captured and held, instead of running off. This will help to prevent erosion, and it will enable us to build up the water table of the area.

Let me give you one example out of our experience. As some of you may know, some years ago we operated a coal pipeline from our strip mining area near Cadiz, Ohio, to one of the large generating stations of Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, a distance of about 108 miles. To pipeline the coal, we made a slurry by mixing the coal with water. One of our problems then was to get an adequate water supply.

We first arranged to secure water from one of the water conservation districts in Ohio. However, we found that because of our strip mining operations, the water table had risen to the point that we could get all the water we needed from our mining area. Therefore, we were able to cancel the plans we had made with the water conservation district.

Now this water was not available until we started strip mining, and not until we brought the water table up by holding the water there instead of allowing it to run off and, in the process, taking a lot of the top soil along with it.

We have also conducted a number of experiments with different methods of reclaiming land. For example, in some areas we have found that we have excellent results with reforestation. We have experimented with various types of trees and have adapted ourselves to those which would grow best in the areas we were mining. Soil conditions many times dictate the types of trees which will flourish in a given area, and soil conditions vary widely. Sometimes a tree which will grow well in one locality will not do so well only a short distance away. The precise type that will do best under all circumstances must be determined experimentally before planting is undertaken.

One of our most successful plantings on reclaimed strip mined banks has been Pennngift crown vetch. This perennial legume is a native of Europe and has adopted well to growth in the eastern part of the United States. Dr. Fred Grau first found it growing on a field in Berks County, Pa., and developed the technique of culture and seed harvesting.

Crown vetch has many advantages over other legumes and grasses for reclamation. It is longer-lived, adds nitrogen to the soil, even though the original stand may appear sparse, and spreads slowly until it forms a complete and dense ground cover. It is not easily affected by insects. Once an area is completely covered with an established stand of crown vetch, then erosion is no longer a problem. From the first of April through May it is a mass of pink flowers and presents a spectacular panorama. It is green from April through November. The only drawback we have found in it is that it does take three or four years to get 100 percent cover.

Crown vetch also is an excellent animal food. We have grazed as many as 1,500 head of beef cattle on it and have found that they have made phenomenal progress. Crown vetch has a high protein content which enhances its forage value.

Many, many recreational areas also have been developed on strip mined lands. We are sometimes asked why all strip mined areas are not turned into recreational projects. Well, for one thing, the economics will not permit this. For another, not all areas have a need for the recreational developments that may be particularly suitable in some places.

There are some notable examples of recreational areas developed after strip mining. For example, the Fairgrounds State Park near DuQuoin, Ill., the site of the Hambletonian, which is the Kentucky Derby of harness racing, is on land once strip mined for coal. The United Electric Coal Companies have successful farms and a commercial peach orchard on reclaimed lands in that same area.

Ohio has many, many lakes and recreational spots that have been developed as a result of strip mining. Numerous sportsmen's clubs and outdoor groups use these lakes. They are stocked with bass, blue gill, and channel catfish.

But recreational development is not limited to lakes. There are picnic areas, wildlife preserves and even golf courses on reclaimed strip mine land. We have a golf course in my own section of Ohio that is on land we mined.

In addition to agricultural and recreational use, some surface mined areas now provide sites for private homes and churches, schools, theaters, shopping centers, industrial parks, and even air strips. Reclamation work has been limited only by man's ingenuity and imagination.

We sincerely believe, gentlemen, that a Federal law which would place an additional layer of paper work on top of that we already have to do, not only