

# OVER HALF A MILLION ACRES OF SWAMP LAND TO BE RECLAIMED

## Great Pumps To Take Water From Lake Mattamuskeet,

(Virginia Pilot Nov. 9th)

Reclaiming hundreds of miles of swamp land in Eastern North Carolina and converting it into fertile farms is the mammoth project just inaugurated by the John L. Roper Lumber Company. The territory comprises all of the area between Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, including a part of Tyrrell, Dare and Hyde counties and consists of more than a half a million acres.

Never before has such a tremendous project been attempted in this country and when completed will add to the nation's productive area thousands of acres of the richest soil.

C. G. Elliott, an expert engineer formerly employed by the government, has been engaged by the lumber company to carry the drainage proposition to a finish. Mr. Elliott began work on November 1.

### Machinery Has Been Ordered

Tons of gigantic machinery have been ordered and much of it is on the way to the scene of operations. Enormous steam shovels, dredges, pumps and other equipment is included in the contract which went to a big machine company in Chicago.

One of the greatest engineering feats included in the work will be the draining of Lake Mattamuskeet, in Hyde county, a sheet of shallow water, 48,000 acres in area which surrounds some of the richest farming land in the Old North State.

Adding to the development of this territory, the Norfolk Southern rail-road is preparing to extend its lines, having already secured rights of way and for the greater part of the route having graded its course, through the heart of the new section.

Extensions will probably have the advantages of a mild climate made from Columbia in Tyrrell county and from Belhaven across through Hyde county. Certain it is that the Norfolk Southern contemplates invading this newly opened land as soon as conditions will permit.

Draining Lake Mattamuskeet is the biggest piece of individual work contemplated in the project. To accomplish this a huge pump with a capacity of 750,000 gallons of water per minute will be employed and with this tremendous pressure at work the vast sheet of water, which covers an area almost as large as the whole of Princess Anne county, will be pumped dry within a short time.

### To Build Great Dyke

A dyke will be built entirely around the lake and a canal eight or ten miles long will be made allowing the water to flow off into Pamlico Sound. The beauty of this piece of work is that when completed it will present an unbroken field without so much as a tree to be cleared. The land bordering on this lake is famed for its productive qualities, comprising some of the finest soil in the country.

It has been conclusively demonstrated that it will yield large crops of cotton, wheat and garden truck. For years farms have been producing great crops and the quality of the soil is such that artificial fertilizer is unnecessary.

The United States Government has already been over most of the territory in these three counties and made preliminary surveys under expert supervision and has been pronounced full of wonderful possibilities.

C. I. Millard, president and general manager of the Roper Lumber Company, said yesterday that never before had such a project been undertaken in this country by private capital.

### Soil Wonderfully Productive

"We do not know the real possibilities of this land," said Mr. Millard. "In fact it is hard to appreciate the wonderful productiveness of this soil. For years small farms have been operating in this section and their yield has been marvelous, but under the arrangement proposed in

our project we expect to develop even greater possibilities than the most sagacious mind has conceived.

Our Mr. Elliott is already at work and will complete new surveys and maps for us as soon as possible. The fact that this land is within easy reach of the big cities will greatly enhance its value, and added to this, it has the advantages of a mild climate and even temperatures, which are so essential to successful farming.

In the Pamlico district 11 miles of canals have already been dug, averaging 22 feet in width throughout, and thousands of barrels have also been dug. In a part of this territory much land has already been reclaimed and is being farmed with splendid results.

### Proposed Canal Through Land

A feature of development is that the proposed inter-coastal canal, the Atlantic Deep-sea Waterways Association's project, runs right through the reclaimed land which, if this project is ever completed, means that unlimited

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transportation will be offered. At Belhaven, J. A. Wilkinson also interested in swamp drainage has reclaimed thousands of acres having already dug 50 or 60 miles of canals. Prosperous farms dot this territory and the land is said to be the most productive in the state.

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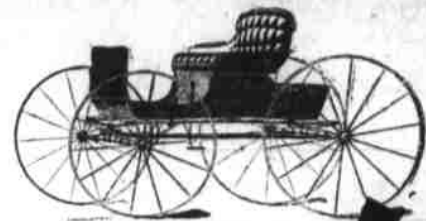
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15	80 BARS	85 BARS	90 BARS	95 BARS
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