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Cape Roses & Race Point Light(left) - - 1954

Fifty Years Ago

March 14, 1901

Province Lands

The Harbor and Land Commission in their annual report speak as follows of the Province Lands:

As was contemplated at the time of the passage of the act, about one third of the appropriation made by chapter 145 of the acts of 1899 has been expended during the past year on the Province Lands, amounting to \$2,890.82. Of this amount, \$757.50 was expended in the extension of the new road from Grand View Hill 2,300 feet toward the Life Saving Station at the coast. The cost thereof averaging about 33 cents a running foot.

It is estimated that an expenditure of less than \$700 next year will complete the road to the outer beach, a distance of about 1,900 feet.

The territory planted keeps in place unmoved by the fiercest winds. The transplanted beach grass takes root and is spreading in a satisfactory manner. The trees and shrubs are growing as rapidly as under the circumstances could be expected.

There can be no longer any question as to the solution of the problem undertaken by the Board six years ago of determining the right method of preventing the sands from blowing in upon the forest and strangling the vegetation between the settlement and the back side of the Cape

Over the section of the low lands lying between the several ranges of sand dunes a good deal

of planting has been from the seed of the Scotch pine, the Austrian pine and the native pitch pine, and so far has yielded very satisfactory results. About 14,000 of these three kinds of pines, grown in the nursery have been transplanted in and among the grasses; also about 1,000 shrubs of Scotch broom, and in addition to the foregoing a large quantity of bayberry taken from the adjacent low lands. This transplanting has been done chiefly along the foot of the sand dunes.

Owing to the continued drought of last summer, which shortened the season for transplanting beach grass, only about 25 acres were covered.

The Board has permitted those persons who have been in the habit of mowing certain parcels of the Provincetown Lands and also of picking cranberries therefrom to gather these crops, on payments of a small license fee, without, however, granting them any rights or privileges in the soil. Otherwise, these crops would go to decay and waste. In order to avail themselves of this privilege, it is necessary for anyone wishing to call upon the resident agent and make arrangements with him and pay him the license fee, preferences always being given to those parties who theretofore had been accustomed to enjoy the products of the particular parcel for which they respectively requested a license. In this way, while the ownership of the Commonwealth is asserted, opportunity is afforded these people for utilizing the crops.