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HANDY

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ably suited for cranberry bog. His newest partner Walter E. Rowley, living at West Wareham, a civil engineer, also had a bog in this area in mind.

OVER 600 ACRES

"Three years ago Rowley began buying property for the new Middleboro enterprise. So far he has closed sales with 40 different owners and still the deal is not complete. In all the area takes in 600 acres or more.

"The property is fed by spring brooks, and Handy and Rowley expect ample water supply with a three-foot drainage drop, water eventually making its way into the Taunton river at Middleboro. The immediate goal is to put in 40 acres, (150 acres eventually) these now well under construction, in two locations.

"One will lie on both sides of the Cape highway, a little to the south of the traffic circle and the junction of the 'old' Taunton road. On the west there will be a reservoir, 140 acres in extent, with a depth of four to six feet, this to be back from the highway about 50 feet. Forty acres are to be built on this side.

"To the east of Route 28, trees and

underbrush have been cleared and piled for burning. Thomas Bros., contractors of Middleboro, have been working for nearly two years with a clamshell shovel, clearing land and waterways, and E. G. Howes, another contractor, has put in nine months of bulldozing.

"One section is in the township of Lakeville and has already been partly set to vines."

ANOTHER IN TAUNTON

Rowley, who is a member and director of the New England Cranberry Sales Company, is handling the engineering.

A vine-setting machine, designed by Robert Pierce, Handy's general superintendent, is being used to set vines on the new bog.

In August of 1946 George Papa-george, of Wareham, a GI and now Mr. Handy's son-in-law, bought the big East Taunton bog from the American-National Fireworks Company, and, of course, Handy is interested in that development, away from the Cape and close to Middleboro. A renovation program is going on there.

With these two bogs developing, "Leck" Handy and his constant companion, his dog "Rube", and his pipe, may be seen frequently in Middleboro, chattering with a friend as though he had nothing else to do in the world.

Inland Best Place to Grow Cranberries

"Leck" Handy Says Middleboro Better Than the Cape

Although the cranberry industry was born and brought up on Cape Cod, and the Cape and the red berries are associated in the public mind, "Leck" Handy, one of the outstanding cranberry growers of the country, who has been building bogs for 57 years and, with a partner, Walter E. Rowley, Jr., is now developing what will be one of his biggest bogs, in Middleboro and Lakeville, considers inland territory provides the best condition for growing cranberries.

In an excellent article intimately descriptive of this strong individualist, written by Clarence J. Hall for the October issue of his magazine, *Cranberries*, the author quotes Mr. Handy—his first name is Leslie, but all his friends call him Leck--as saying:

A BETTER PLACE

"I've been up in Foxboro (he has a six-acre bog there from which he gets his best production) when there was bright sun all day. I've come back as far east as Middleboro and there was some mist. I've gotten back to Wareham (where he lives) and found it has been cloudy and foggy all day.

"I've about come to the conclusion that in Massachusetts to get the best conditions you want to build bog west and north of a Plymouth-Middleboro-Taunton line

"Middleboro to my thinking is a better place to grow cranberries than Wareham, and Wareham is better than the Cape itself. You get cold, wet winds and fogs from both sides there."

MIDDLEBORO BOG

Besides the Foxboro bog, Handy owns in partnership the Lowell Cranberry Company, which has a 30 acre bog at Carlisle and a 10 acre bog at Wilmington, both far from the Cape and high producers. But his major interest now is in the new Middleboro bog.

"Handy's chief interest at the moment is obviously the building of the new bog at Middleboro," writes Mr. Hall. "This is to be along Route 28 (main Cape highway) west of the New Bedford road from the Middleboro rotary traffic circle. This is a piece of property upon which Handy says he has had his mind for the past 10 or 15 years as being admir-