

line may be said to extend from Quebec to Norway House at the north end of Lake Winnipeg, a distance of about 1,200 to 1,300 miles. The climate of this region has always been popularly conceived to be very rigorous, especially in the neighbourhood of Hudson's Bay; and the soil very unsuitable for cultivation. In shewing that this supposition is exaggerated General Hewson does not advance any theories of his own, but gives the experience of Professor Bell, the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company and others. Of the country between Quebec and the sources of the St. Maurice there is not a great deal of information given. It is for the most part rough and hilly, abounding in timber, but without a great deal of land fit for settlement. Where good land is available, he gives us as an instance of its productiveness, the wonderful agricultural progress and wheat raising capacity of the Lake St. John district, in the same latitude, in which there are millions of acres of fertile lands, as may be seen from reports in the Quebec Crown Lands Department, and the excellent crops raised by the lumbering firms on the Upper St. Maurice. Referring to the height of land between the St. Maurice and Hudson's Bay, Mr. Richardson, of the Geological Survey, says: "Mr. Burgess, of the Hudson's Bay Company's post here, furnished me on the 7th August, with fair sized new potatoes." Mr. McQuat, of the same survey, reports "that he found Pine trees which measured eight or nine feet in circumference." Mr. Gladman, in his evidence before a Parliamentary Committee in 1857, speaking of New Brunswick House, a post south of James' Bay, says: "the soil very good; raised excellent potatoes and every description of vegetable; oats ripens very well; had barley also, and wheat has since been tried with success. Cattle kept there, housed during winter." Of Moose Factory, on James' Bay, Gladman says: "climate and soil good: raised potatoes and other vegetables in great abundance; barley ripened well."