

development to the east of Stinking Lake. The balsam and poplar in groves is of large size, in many cases two feet in diameter.

Extending eastward from Stinking and Pelican Lakes fine groves of spruce are frequently mixed with aspen and balsam-poplar, and, on the borders of the swamps, groves of tamarac of all sizes up to 18 inches in diameter are found. Banksian pine is prevalent on the sand hills and ridges, but seldom attains a foot in diameter. Birch and willow are numerous, but of little value except for fuel.

A line, which generally may be described as running from Cumberland House along the 54th parallel to the 105th meridian and thence bending northerly to  $54^{\circ} 30'$  on the Beaver River, may be considered as the northern limit within which land, fairly good, is found.

North of this line up to latitude  $55^{\circ}$  the country consists of a series of large lakes, high sand ridges, rounded hills and wide stretches of bare sand with frequent marshes producing coarse grass. The only locality where good land was observed was some distance south of the Stanley Mission on Churchill River about longitude  $104^{\circ} 30'$ . Here some small patches were cultivated as gardens.

North of latitude  $55^{\circ}$  and extending to Churchill River the whole country is described as being absolutely barren consisting of Laurentian rocks with mossy muskegs, sandy wastes and numerous large lakes.

Banksian pines of small size, scattered over the rocks and here and there groves of small spruce in marshy spots were met with.

The exploration west of longitude  $107^{\circ} 30'$  was generally confined to the district extending from the Saskatchewan, north to Beaver River and to about thirty-five miles north of Lac la Biche.

Within these limits the country is described as varied in character. There are extensive portions covered with rich dark loam, capable of producing fine crops. Other tracts are sandy and poor; and to the east, south of Beaver River, a large extent of wet and marshy land is met.

The indications suggest that the whole of this district was originally forest; but at present a strip of from five to twenty miles along the Saskatchewan is chiefly prairie.