

VERBAL AND OTHER TESTIMONY TO THE SAME EFFECT.

Verbal and written testimony of a similar nature to the above has reached me from many sources, but the limits of this sketch do not permit its presentation. Judge Lyon and the Rev. Mr. Halstead, Rat Portage; Hugh Sutherland, M. P., Winnipeg; Sheriff Clarke, Thunder Bay; W. H. Simpson, Sault St. Marie; R. A. Lyon, M.P.P., Manitoulin, and other well known residents, all unite in describing the whole of the vast region from Spanish River to the Northwest Angle to be, from all standpoints, "much better than it looks."

Reference might also be briefly made to the admirable location and excellent prospects of several rising towns in the territory, notably Sault St. Marie, picturesquely situated upon the connecting link between Lakes Huron and Superior, and destined to be an important railway point; Port Arthur, with its really grand location on Thunder Bay, and rapidly rising to be the most important of Western Canadian shipping ports, besides being also a chief railway centre; and Rat Portage beautifully situated on the Lake of the Woods and designed by nature for a pretty and popular summer resort. Nor should the value of Northwestern Ontario as a pleasant place of resort for summer tourists be lightly estimated. The shores and islands of Lakes Huron and Superior, and the rugged, rock-bound and tree-girdled points and islands of Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake and Rainy River; not less than the countless Lakelets, Rivers and Falls, which meet the eye continuously from Thunder Bay to the Western Boundary of Ontario, afford to Canadians a variety of picturesque scenery, and facilities for fishing, boating and hunting equal to any that can be enjoyed within easy reach on this continent. With well-equipped and carefully managed steamboat lines, and the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which will in two or three years more traverse nearly the whole territory, Canadians may soon enjoy, under their "own vine and fig tree," well nigh all the beauties and comforts to be had in a tour of the St. Lawrence or the Lakes of Muskoka.

But the one great drawback, the present chief barrier to