

s. About the  
th sides. And  
which contained  
s, but not in  
orking.

## THEREBY AND.

itory which I  
ue in an agri-  
water, and the  
areas of fertile

Lake Abitibi  
le as it may  
inion ten feet.  
ed nine feet,  
en told, how-  
shallow even  
r forty square  
es not exceed  
ng an area of  
ore than ten  
Round Lake,  
nd this season,  
asand acres—  
very trifling

being at its  
feet. If the  
nly partially  
y completely

rtaken, with  
ected in the  
lland, where  
er, the water  
fully accom-  
erful steam-  
not still, for  
years, how-  
s had to be  
the level of

the level of  
level forty  
place has at  
tion of the  
oken down  
am able to  
rainage of

iently wide  
onse would,

I think, be necessary. The main river and tributary streams would soon excavate channels for themselves in the clay of which, in my opinion, the bed or bottom of the lake is chiefly, if not entirely composed. The uniformity of the depth, the colour of the water and the character of the soil in the marshes and swamps, as well as on the islands, all tend to confirm me in the belief that the greater part of the bed of the lake is clay or clay-marl. There may be areas where more or less sand has been deposited upon and covers the clay, and there may be places where peaks of the underlying rock may rise above both the clay bottom and the water itself forming islands in the lake; but these, in my opinion, constitute but a small part of the whole.

That this deposit of clay is of considerable thickness I infer, from the fact—that wherever there is a current, whether it be near the mouths of the tributary streams for a greater or less distance before they enter the lake, in channels of the lake itself, or at and below its outlet, I have invariably found in both this and other lakes similarly situated, that the depth of the water in such places greatly exceeds that of the lakes themselves, being rarely less than fifteen and sometimes as much as thirty feet. In order to this, the bed must be composed of material easily excavated and removed by a moderate current of water, and on examination this is almost always found to be clay.

As regards the fertility and value of the land thus reclaimed, I have no sufficient data to guide me. I am well aware that there may be, and probably is, a great difference in the amount as well as in the kind of organic matter in the sediments deposited in our lakes and in those of Central Europe. I am even inclined to believe that this difference is likely to make in favour of the greater fertility of land reclaimed from lakes in old and densely peopled countries, or in warmer climates where land and water alike teem with animal-life. Still I do not see why the soil should not be as fertile, if not more so than much of the land in the older parts of Ontario or even in the North-West. This is a question of the first importance, but one notwithstanding, which can only be decided by actual experiment.

I have already observed that it is by no means improbable that the climate of a wide belt of this northern territory is better adapted for the growth of fall wheat than that of Manitoba, and it is at least possible that the calcareous clay or marl which forms the bed of this, and many other lakes north of the Height of Land, may prove when properly drained and worked a good wheat soil.

If this should happily turn out to be the case, or even if the soil and climate be less suited to the growth of wheat, but capable of yielding abundant crops of barley, roots and grass, this land must, beyond doubt or question, become sooner or later of great economic importance and value to the people of this Province.

Lake Abitibi is situated about five degrees or say three hundred and fifty miles due north of Toronto, and is nearly equi-distant from Toronto and Montreal. It lies to the south of any part of Manitoba or of our North-West territories, and even of some parts of the north shore of Laker Superior. Roughly speaking, this part of the disputed territory is no further from Toronto than Sault St. Marie.

When this Abitibi section of the country is opened by means of railways, it will be really much more advantageously situated, in respect of markets for its produce, than Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, or any other part, in short, of the North-West.

If the projected railway from North Bay, Lake Nipissing to Lake Temiscamingue should be constructed and afterwards extended to Lake Abitibi, this part of the territory will be about 375 miles only from Toronto and 540 miles from Montreal by rail. Comparing these distances with those of the places above mentioned from the same cities, we find that Abitibi is some 880 miles nearer than Winnipeg, 1,240 miles nearer than Regina, and 1,720 miles nearer than Calgary to Toronto, Montreal, Boston or New York. Thus, whether the climate and soil of this Abitibi country be best fitted for the growth of grain, the raising of cattle or for dairy husbandry, the produce can be sent to the markets of Europe by way of Montreal, or to those of the United States by way of Toronto or Hamilton at very much less cost for carriage or transportation than like articles produced in the more distant North-West.

Should the navigation of Hudson's bay and straits prove practicable, Abitibi is not more than two hundred miles from either Moose Factory or Rupert's House on James'