

of its south branch, the Amable du Fards, the Petewawe, the Indian River, the Madawaska, the Bonnechere, the Mississippi, and the Rideau, which, like the valleys of the Moira and the Trent in the adjoining agency westward, originally contained the most extensive and richest pine forests in the old provinces of British North America. On the River Bonnechere, for instance, I passed through two large timber berths, equal to a large township in area, generally covered with hardwood trees often 100 feet in height; yet they yielded in the course of 40 years' dues on square pine timber and saw logs, paid into my office, equal to nearly three dollars an acre; and they are still yielding some dues and ground rents, being still of value though much cut up by settlers and lumbering. On the Quebec side there are tracts that long ago yielded as much. On both sides of the Ottawa there are pieces and considerable tracts of unarable land, though rich in the soil, so wooded that should be reserved carefully as forests for ever, under careful management, gleanings, and thinnings utilised, and the surplus young trees transplanted to replace the larger ones taken away as soon as private enterprise, with such encouragement as Government may be able to afford, may see that it would be worth while to do so. Beyond the Ottawa valley and French River north-westward Ontario has but little pine to contribute, it is limited to a belt extending from 30 to 40 miles north from Lake Nipissing and Lake Huron, beyond which recurs a zone of 120 miles in breadth, which extends to Lake Superior, that, with the country behind it, has no pine to contribute.

But from the country on Hudson's Bay waters, claimed by Ontario, great quantities of excellent spruce, tamarac, and yellow birch timber and sawn lumber, will doubtless be brought out by rail, before very many years from what is called the level clay country of the north, which also contains much good land fit for settlement, and there is good coal in the lower valley of Moose River. The country between the northern boundary of the province of Quebec and Hudson's Bay, though it has a good growth of pine for 20 miles north of the Quebec boundary, about the portage to Lake Abittibi has much less timber of value or land fit for cultivation owing to the fact recently discovered that the fine growth of wood seen along its rivers, especially north of Lake Abittibi, often extend less than a mile back, and that the greater part of the country between and behind, is covered by low peat bogs of great depth, the wetness of the climate being highly favorable to the growth of the plant, the decay of the under parts of which as it grows produces the bogs gradually increases their depth. They may become of incalculable value for the enormous supply of fuel stored up in them, which might be furnished at a moderate price in our cities for domestic use, and many manufacturing purposes, and the soil that underlies these bogs being of a retentive and durable kind, will, where it may be uncovered, yield heavy crops of hay and oats, barley or rye, like the lands reclaimed from "Blairs Drummond Moss" in Scotland and others.

But the supply of timber it can yield at any future time will be much less than what the country claimed by Ontario will yield, especially with Canada Pacific Railway to carry it out in the form of sawn lumber.

Very little information of any kind is before the public respecting the country east of Lake Abittibi and the valley of the River Hurricanaw, the head waters of which reach down below lat. 48° north to within 10 miles of Lake Victoria on the Ottawa. It would seem very desirable to have an exploratory reconnaissance made of the valley and course of that river. Its waters extend about 20 miles further south than those of the Abittibi where much good pine was found. It seems desirable also to learn something as to its minerals. A copper formation was discovered considerably to the eastward of it by Mr. Richardson of the Geological Department. Profitable mining in that region, if possible, might be of value to the province of Quebec to which it naturally belongs.

The following exhibits the total numbers of pieces of squared white and red pine and other woods, and of pine saw logs cut in the Upper Ottawa territories of Quebec and Ontario, on Crown lands, and also on private lands from 1826 to 1881 (30th June) inclusively, that is, before and since confederation as closely as can be learned from the records of the Crown Timber Office, Ottawa:—

Ottawa territory in Ontario. Exceedingly rich in pine. Instance.

Similar tracts on Quebec side.

Upper Ottawa, Ontario.

Limited range of pine zone, north of Lakes Nipissing and Huron. Much richer in wood is the territory on the Hudson's Bay waters claimed by Ontario. Country north of Quebec has less wood owing to peat bogs. Value in future of peat bog regions north of the province of Quebec.

Little known country north of provincial boundary.

Cursory explorations of its waters desirable.

Upper Ottawa territory, Quebec.