

timber agencies at Quebec and Ottawa new items not in existence in 1873, \$34,568.

The Exploratory Surveys of 1900.

The determination of the Government to further ascertain the great resources of the partially or undeveloped parts of the Province was shown in the exploratory surveys of 1900—one of the most important and comprehensive steps yet taken by any Provincial Government in Canada; important in the results achieved, and comprehensive in the areas of territory covered; and, it might be added, one of the most economical, the total cost of the undertaking reaching but a trifle over the \$40,000 originally voted for the purpose. This of course does not include the printing and publication of the reports, which have been in great demand.

The Scope of the Surveys.

Ten surveying parties were sent out, to each of which was assigned approximately 100 miles square for examination, comprising a territory larger in extent than the whole settled portion of Ontario, aggregating nearly one hundred thousand square miles. The region lies for the most part north of the main line of the C.P.R., and includes the major portions of the districts of Nipissing, Algoma, Thunder Bay and Rainy River.

The Government had three objects in view: To acquire information (1) as to the soil, (2) the timber, and (3) the minerals of this great Northland. Thus the three great industries of Ontario—agriculture, lumbering and mining—were in the minds of the Government. Incidentally, many miles of permanent base lines were surveyed, valuable water powers noted, and animal, plant, and fish life studied. Each of the ten parties was composed of a land surveyor, a land and timber estimator, and a geologist, with necessary assistants.

The General Results.

The combined results were more satisfactory than the most sanguine looked for. Speaking broadly, the belief was verified that in the region north of the height of land—covering over one-half of the area of the entire Province—there are large tracts of good agricultural land, that forests of spruce and other pulp woods exist to a much greater extent than was anticipated, and that nature has provided a succession of waterways on

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