

TIMBER AND SOIL CONDITIONS IN SOUTHEASTERN MANITOBA.

During recent years, Manitoba has shared in the rapid progress in settlement made by Central Canada in general. Long regarded, along with the other Prairie Provinces, as fitted for little but the production of furs and game, the province received but little settlement until the purchase of Rupert's Land by the Dominion Government in 1870.

Even then, for years settlers came in comparatively small numbers. From 25,228 in 1871 the population increased to 62,260 in 1881 and again to 152,506 in 1891. In 1901, the province had 255,211 inhabitants, which number had in 1911 increased to 455,614, and in 1913 was estimated at 500,000.

Nearly all the land was acquired under the homestead law, title being given for 160 acres, after the homestead duties were performed.

In 1885 the "Swamp Lands" (see appendix) were transferred to the Provincial Government and largely disposed of at about \$10 per acre on very easy terms. Over 400,000 acres of this "Swamp Land," which has been retransferred to the Dominion Government, are within the district described in this report.

Since the true agricultural value of this section of southeastern Manitoba had been reported on only in a general way, it was decided by the Department of the Interior to make a survey to determine the soil conditions, as well as the timber conditions, existing there, and at the same time determine the agricultural fitness of the district.

OBJECT OF SURVEY.

The object of the survey was to determine and report on the soil and timber conditions and suggest the most feasible disposal of the various types of land either for a forest reserve or for agriculture.

RESUME OF SUMMER'S WORK.

Pursuant to instructions of April 17, from the Director of Forestry, I left Ottawa on May 18, accompanied by Mr. F. S. Newman. We spent several days ascertaining conditions along the Canadian Pacific railway, east of Whitemouth, and along the Canadian Northern railway from Marchand southeast to the United States boundary.

It was then determined to make a quick reconnaissance of the country in the vicinity of the Whitemouth and Winnipeg rivers, using these water-courses as baselines. Accordingly we left Whitemouth lake by canoe on June 1, and travelled northward down stream. A rough reconnaissance was made of the country adjacent to and a few miles back from the river. This course was followed as far north as lake Winnipeg and also around Lac du Bonnet and up the Oiseau (Bird) river for 18 miles from its mouth.

Two men and a team were then procured at Sprague, near the United States boundary, to work north and west, and make a more detailed survey. Thus we travelled to the Dawson road and then down the Whitemouth river, determining, by the