

erals in economic quantities in them at all. Near the Eadmet river, a tributary of the Albany, he saw crystals of mica in the granite, two and a half inches in diameter. Of course that is not large enough to amount to much, but it shows a possibility that there might be something better there.

When Mr. O'Sullivan spoke of limestones down the lower parts of these rivers, he referred to limestones of the Hudson bay basin, which run perhaps forty or fifty miles up these rivers. There is quite another basin on the other side, the intervening land being archæan, which if they had ever been covered with limestone, of which there is evidence now, the limestone must have been entirely eroded away. Those limestones would furnish building material and could be burned into lime.

CLIMATE.

Mr. McInnes said he could not very closely indicate the isothermal line on the part of the country he had explored last year, but he could say that that country averaged from four to five degrees in the summer months higher temperature than the same latitude further west. He thought that the isothermal line which would go past the north end of the country he had been speaking of would come down as far as the north shore of Lake Superior, which would be a very long distance south. He had records kept during all summer of the temperatures through that western country, and he had a summary of the record kept in the preceding summers.

He was rather surprised at the warmth of that western country in summer. He was surprised at the way heat kept up in the evenings. He kept the thermometer readings morning, noon and 6 o'clock in the evening, and found the 6 o'clock temperatures were almost as warm as the noon temperatures. That country has a very long day in summer. The day in those high altitudes is very much longer, and the growing time proportionately longer. In June they have about eighteen hours of daylight.

As to the district where he found the 170 miles of agricultural land he had described, he only reached there about the middle of June. There was no frost in the balance of June or in July, and no frost in August, excepting once, on, he thought, the 29th, when the thermometer dropped just to freezing point. There was not enough frost to touch vegetation at all in the valley of the river where he was. He noticed when he got out to the Saskatchewan there was rather a high ridge on which there were a lot of half-breed settlers. He got there on September 6 and noticed on top of the hills where they had potatoes that they had been touched just on the tops, but down in the valleys the potatoes in the garden of the Hudson bay post had not been touched at all. He presumed that frost was on August 29.

The witness had often been over the Canadian Pacific Railway between Lake Nipissing and Port Arthur, and the country he had traversed from the Pas eastwards as compared with the country north of Lake Superior was much superior.

SETTLEMENTS.

There are a few half-breeds and Indians settled at the Pas, and there are the two Hudson bay posts spoken of. Apart from that, there are no settlers in western Keewatin, just wandering Indians. Of course, there are a great many Indians there.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

The proposed railway through the Pas would go through 170 miles of tolerably good land, and of course there are areas of swamp.

The proposed route runs not quite through the centre of the fertile country described, a little south of the centre, but pretty yearly through it. It would necessarily have to cross the limestone ridge of which he spoke. It has to go about 40 miles before