

APPENDIX No. 4

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA,

ROOM 34,

WEDNESDAY, January 23, 1907.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met here this day at 11 o'clock a.m., Mr. McKenzie, chairman, presiding.

Prof. JOHN MACOUN was present by re-call of the committee, and submitted evidence as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I wish to make a correction of one of my statements made on the last day I was before you; at least I did not make it clear enough. I said that wheat would grow to within three miles of Hudson bay. I meant to say that the conditions of the country are affected by the proximity of the bay to about three miles inland; after that the influence of the bay ceases to affect the general climatic conditions of the country. I cited Lake Superior as an instance, and I may say that we know perfectly well, those of us who live on the River St. Lawrence and on the borders of the Great Lakes, that the influence of the lake extends about three miles inland, that is, it affects the general conditions of the country only that distance.

By Mr. Wilson (Lennox and Addington):

Q. We will take the case of Hudson bay. After you have reached three miles inland what is the effect upon the country? Will they be able to grow wheat as well?

A. I am very glad you asked that. We know that wheat will grow, that it can be successfully grown as far north as latitude 56° in the direction of the bay. We know that now. That is seven degrees north of the international boundary.

Q. How near is that to the bay?

A. That is just exactly what I would like to know. I was looking to see if I had the note, but I will put the answer to that question in the evidence, when I get the report.

THE COUNTRY BOUNDED EAST BY HUDSON BAY

York Factory is in latitude 57°, and Fort Churchill in latitude 58° 40'. But I state this distinctly, that we know that wheat will grow up to latitude 56°, and that it has been grown successfully. Vegetables, too, of course, are known to grow far away north, and in fact, as far as York Factory and Fort Churchill, more or less. What I wanted to say now in this same connection is, that here (pointing to map) is Norway House at the head of Lake Winnipeg and Cedar lake, and down about here is Split lake. The head of Lake Winnipeg is just 710 feet above the sea, and at this point here, Norway House, it is just at the same level. That is, the north end of the lake is the same level above the sea as the south end of the lake, but when you come to Split lake, it is only 440 feet above the sea in latitude 54°. Mr. MacInnis, a member of the Geological Survey staff, was at Split lake this year, and he reports that there is a tract of country in here (indicating on map) about 200 miles in one direction and 100 miles in the other direction, that is well suited for agriculture. It is excellent soil, and, from his standpoint, he says he has no doubt whatever but it will be a first-class farming country in the future.

By Senator Perley:

Q. Is it timbered?

A. It is timbered. The poplar is very fine, and so is the spruce, in fact, the spruce runs up to 100 feet. It is most magnificent. Why I mention that now is this: We all know that Manitoba is low and level and has alluvial