

period as possible so that there may be no depletion of the soil. These areas will in the aggregate make about 1,500,000 acres.

The third area is what is generally known as the great clay belt of Northern Ontario. The land to the north of the height of land is drained by a large number of rivers flowing into James Bay. It has been only partially explored. Such explorations as have been made indicate that at least sixteen million acres of land are to be found in a compact area running east and west, and continuing across the boundary line into the northern part of Quebec. This clay belt begins about 420 miles north of Toronto. It runs west by north to a point almost due north of Port Arthur. In width it varies; it will average probably 120 miles. At present it is covered by an unbroken spruce forest which will produce an enormous amount of pulp wood for the settlers. The Grand Trunk Pacific going west from Quebec enters this belt at the boundary line, just at the northern limit of Lake Abitibi. A few miles west of this it joins the northern terminus of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway at Cochrane, approximately five hundred miles north of Toronto; it then continues west by north running almost through the middle of this belt for a distance of four hundred miles.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has begun to clear a demonstration farm on the T. & N. O. Railway at a point about thirty miles south of the junction. Already settlers are going in and taking up land as fast as railroad construction proceeds. The soil of the entire belt is clay, overlaid by a layer of vegetable soil varying in thickness. Four fifths of this clay belt lies between the 48th and 50th parallel. It lies in the same latitude as southern Manitoba. The question that will first arise is as to whether crops can be grown in this belt. The fact that it is in the same latitude as southern Manitoba would lead to the conclusion that, as far as sunlight is concerned, crops can be grown. It is known also that first class garden crops have been grown for years at Hudson Bay posts lying within or adjacent to this area. Further, samples of oats and wheat have been brought to the Department grown in this belt in 1908, within ten miles of our demonstration farm. The officers of this Department are quite of the opinion that, with the clearing of the land and such drainage as would be necessary on any other farm land in Ontario, this great belt can be and will be utilized for agricultural production. It may not be a rival of the prairie countries for wheat production, but it has all the indications of being able to carry live stock in large numbers. It has some advantage over prairie country in that it is well wooded and well watered.

*Am. J. 11*