

down by this stream and the largest part is deposited before the water leaves Cedar lake. From analysis of water from several of the streams in the district a comparison of the amount of sediment contained may be gathered by reference to the following table:—

One Imperial gallon contains suspended matter.

	Grains.
*Nelson River (Sea River falls)	2.565
Reindeer lake.....	2.02
Churchill river.....	7.96
Saskatchewan river (near Cumberland lake).....	16.60

Peat.

Small deposits of peat are to be found in various places, but the most important, from an economic point of view, is the area north of Lake Winnipeg described by Mr. Tyrrell. Along the valley of the Burntwood river, where it is cut through the thick clay deposit, the general surface of the terrace is quite level. The drainage near the river is general, but back from the edge of the valley, on the more level parts, there is very often a wide expanse of swamp covered by a stunted growth of spruce and carpeted by heavy layers of moss. These swamps may at some future time supply peat for fuel.

ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

Agricultural possibilities.

As the area is situated so far north of the boundary of Manitoba, it might be presumed that much of it is unfitted for settlement, but it is discovered that over a large part there is a good soil, and the evidence of several gardens at various posts show that for all the ordinary vegetables and coarser grains the climate is not too rigorous. Splendid gardens were found as far north as Nelson House, which is in the northern part of the area here mapped. Proper drainage is however needed to bring much of the surface into a condition fit for agriculture. Along the river banks this is evident, for while the strip bordering the streams produces a great variety of grasses, shrubs and trees, a short distance back this is replaced by a swamp covered by moss and stunted spruce. This is more noticeable in the western part of the Nelson valley, where the country is thickly covered by a coating of clay, and the surface is so uniformly level that its gradual slope to the east is not sufficient to drain it. The areas to which it would be possible to introduce a system of drainage, would at first be restricted to a narrow margin along the streams.

*Report of Progress, Geol. Surv. Can., 1879-80, p 79c. and 1889-82, p 6 H.