

COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION

the heavy clay land adjoining the stream is found a considerable stand of poplar from eight to eighteen inches in diameter, but the quality is not of the best, the larger timber being, as a general rule, decayed at the heart. On this heavy clay is also found the largest growth of spruce, a large percentage of the spruce running up to sixteen inches in diameter. Farther back from the stream on the higher land is found balsam and spruce. The balsam is of little value, but the spruce is good. On the next stretch, as the drainage decreases, is found the spruce swamp. The balsam has disappeared, but the quality and quantity of spruce improves. On the next stretch, as the drainage fails, moss-covered land develops. The forest has the appearance of a grove, being free from undergrowth. The spruce is uniform in size from six to ten inches in diameter, very tall and free from limbs. This is the invariable rotation of timber in the country: poplar, spruce and balsam, spruce swamps and spruce groves. The ideal lands for the agriculturist are the balsam lands and spruce swamp, corresponding to the basswood lands and ash and elm swamps of Southern Ontario. Apart from pulpwood there is not a great quantity of merchantable timber, but when a demand for pulpwood arises the unlimited areas of this timber will make the settlers independent of other sources of revenue.

P. 121. (Wesley township). This township may properly be described as an elevated plain considerably cut up with deep narrow ravines. . . . The land throughout is clay of varying quality. . . . The timber, apart from the pulpwood, is of small commercial value.

P. 87, 1905. (Edwards township). The south half of the township is in general gently rolling land; the north half is flat, much broken in the northeast. A large part of the north half is swamp, one-quarter of which is muskeg. A considerable area of sandy land extends northwesterly along the lakes from the south-east corner of the township, which, I think, will not prove good for farming purposes.

P. 93. (Aurora township). The township is almost entirely clay land. West of the Abitibi river the land is fairly level and of splendid quality; east of the river the land is very good, but for about two miles back from the river it is much broken by deep ravines. There is quite a large area of muskeg in the northeast corner of the township; on this muskeg area the timber is of no value. The timber increases in size as the river is approached.

Pp. 101, 102. (Newmarket township). About eighty-five per cent will, when cleared, be agricultural land. . . . The timber grows in belts and in sizes from four to fourteen inches.

P. 60, 1904. (Mann township). The average size of this timber ranges from two to ten inches in diameter, with scattered spruce and poplar up to fourteen and sixteen inches. . . . I would consider