

There has not been any attempt at agriculture whatever in this section. Along the Churchill River a few Chipewyans are located, but inland there is no settlement whatever. This section is particularly well stocked with game and fur bearing animals and is popularly supposed to be infested by wolves. I travelled through it and always kept about two miles ahead of the dogs but I did not see any wolves.

The height of land dividing the water sheds of Ile a la Crosse and Sandy River is not very high but is clearly marked by a clay ridge. This ridge has been burnt off in recent years and is covered with fallen timber and *brulé*. A poplar growth is springing up now.

This part of the Section should make good agricultural country. There is, however, a vast area of swamp in this section; I cannot say if it could be drained. Sandy River flows through vast hay meadows. These are not too wet and are by no means swamps. Of course most of the meadows would be improved by clearing of scrub bush. About 60 miles east of Snake Lake the first rock outcrop is met with. Here the country becomes somewhat broken. There are some fringes of good spruce along the Churchill River in this section. I did not estimate the amount but I do not think that it would be sufficient to supply any large industry.

At the mouth of Sandy River on Snake Lake there are two or three families of Indians. They have no gardens; one Indian had killed eighteen moose that fall which he remarked would keep his family for the winter. Beaver were plentiful here. I saw several beaver houses but the Indians had made arrangements to kill all the beaver as soon as the weather was colder.

There are several rapids on Sandy River. Another river also flows into Snake Lake from the south; the Indians call it Two Fork River. This section is difficult to get at as the canoe routes are not good from any direction. Coming from Ile a la Crosse via the Churchill several bad rapids occur and via La Plonge Lake the La Plonge River is practically all rapids, perhaps the easiest route is from Lac la Ronge, even then there are numerous long portages.

LAC LA RONGE AND STANLEY SECTION.

Attached hereunder is a plan marked "F" shewing the approximate boundaries of what I term the "Lac la Ronge and Stanley Section."

Lac la Ronge District is claimed to have great possibilities as a mineral district. The Laurentian range of rock crops out here and is easily traced to the north-west. Whether this outcrop really contains mineral of economic value is still unsettled. Numerous claims have been staked at Nickel Island in Lac la Ronge and on the mainland close by also on the Churchill River above Stanley. I had not time to prospect the country but from casual observation, I should think that it would repay a closer investigation. The vein on Nickel Island is very distinct and about 18 inches wide on the outcrop. Several small companies have been formed and development work in a limited way is progressing. Besides the mineral wealth supposed to be available there is also considerable land to be found capable of being tilled. It is no experiment to endeavour to raise wheat in this section. It has already been done. Stanley, or as it is sometimes called Stanley Mission, is worthy of special description. It appears that Stanley is one of the best known spots in the north. The village or settlement is situated on a most picturesque point jutting into the Churchill River. The country surrounding it is rolling and this adds considerably to the beauty of the locality. From an agricultural standpoint the land is good. The soil is a rich loam and the subsoil is sandy clay. The loam, however, attains a great depth. I put one hole down almost four feet and had not then struck a sub-soil. This, however, was exceptional. Stanley's fame rests altogether on the energy and initiative of Rev. Mr. Hunt, a Church of England clergyman, and the founder of a church of England Mission there about 1851. Mr. Hunt, as far as I could ascertain, not only built