

dian Market than that of the sheep fattened on the short sweet grasses of the Laurentian hills of North Hastings.

Of the rich mineral prospects of this territory it is now almost unnecessary to speak. As far as it has been prospected it promises as well as any mining region in the known world; and as soon as the boundary question shall have been finally settled, it will no doubt develop in such a way as to fully justify all the bright predictions that have been made concerning its future.

Throughout the greater portion of the Disputed Territory, outside the Rainy Lake and Rainy River District, the country consists of low rocky ridges and narrow fertile valleys, following each other in rapid succession, though the prospect is often beautified by pretty little lakelets many of which are fairly teeming with excellent fish. Hay marshes are also abundant and towards the eastern portion of the territory muskegs of very considerable acreage are numerous. In the older portions of the Dominion the character and nature of these muskegs are not properly understood. If they were found in old Canada, they would be called cranberry marshes. With suitable efforts at drainage the greater part of these muskegs could be made rich and productive tracts; but until land shall have become much more difficult to obtain in Canada than it is now, it is not at all probable that much money will be expended in such enterprises. The timber in the Disputed Territory though not large is of a very fair quality and on account of its proximity to the great Prairie Market must always be valuable. The traveller in passing through this country by the railway is inclined to under-estimate it. Much of the timber along the line has been destroyed by the running of fires employed at first in clearing the right of way for the road. The game has been scared away by the large laboring population employed in the construction of the road, and altogether the country immediately adjacent to the railway presents a bleaker, drearier and more uninviting appearance than any other portion of the territory.

One of the strong points of the Disputed Territory is Lake of the Woods. This is not merely owing to the immense value in the shape of economic and precious metals locked up