

The witness had travelled the country about Lac La Ronge pretty thoroughly, and if it were cleared of timber it would, in his opinion, be generally fair agriculture land. The rocky country is north of that.

He could not describe what the grasses are, but they are grasses that grow mostly in moist land, something like slough hay, grasses that grow on the margins of lakes, and along the rivers. There was not much stock there, but he had stock when he lived on the mission on the Churchill river, fifteen head of cattle and two horses. That is a little north of Lac La Ronge, and is practically the same country.

As to the Lake Ile a la Crosse country, witness considered it fairly good. It is not rocky and there is plenty of timber and plenty of hay as a rule—some prairie hay and some swamp hay, and the soil is fairly good—better than Lac La Ronge. It gets better as you go west. It is certainly better about Ile a la Crosse than at Lac La Ronge, and there is no rock country about Ile a la Crosse. The hay is long. It is very much the same as the natural hay in Manitoba.

While living at Moose Factory, which is at James bay, at the very mouth of the river, he was connected with the mission. They always had a good garden at the mission and there were others. They never raised wheat in his time, but they raised barley and almost every variety of ordinary garden vegetables, potatoes, peas, carrots, beets, beans, &c. He thought these crops could be raised, say fifty or a hundred miles back from the bay.

FORESTRY.

As to the country around Lac La Ronge, there is timber all through it, wherever it has not been destroyed by fires. In some places it has been killed by fires for the time being, particularly in the rocky country. The fires seem to be more destructive in that class of country than in the other part. Archdeacon McKay explained that he put up a saw mill at Lac La Ronge last year, and it is run by water-power. The logs that are sawn there are the kind of timber found in that part of the country. They average seventeen logs to the thousand feet. They would be logs fourteen or fifteen feet long. The diameter would be about two feet across at the butt—good, large logs, clean timber, very much the same timber as at Prince Albert. This good timber is scattered all over the country, sometimes for miles. It depends on the nature of the country.

Asked how far this timber area would outskirt to the east, west and north, witness replied he would say that kind of country extends all the way through right down to Lac la Ronge, and down all the way to the border of the province. Although he had not been through it, he had travelled backwards and forwards on it a good deal, visited Indian camps and so on, and it is very much the same kind of timber all through. In some places it is muskeg, and in some places heavy timber.

Reindeer lake is not north of the tree limit. There are trees there, but they are small. They do not grow so large as further south. It is a good way north of Reindeer lake before you get into the barren grounds. Witness had never been further north than Reindeer lake.

FISHERIES AND FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

In Lac la Ronge and the lakes generally fish are abundant. They are mostly whitefish and lake trout. The Indians do not sell them; they have no market. There would be abundance of fish for some time for commercial purposes, and witness believed that next year the people of Prince Albert would be in there for fish. There are plenty of fish in Reindeer lake.

As to fur-bearing animals, last winter (1906) was an exceptional winter, and they were unusually scarce. Sometimes they are on the increase, sometimes on the decrease, but taking it on the whole there is a decrease, specially in beaver. The beaver is nearly