

some tamarack and here and there a cedar swamp, in which the trees were, however, not of much value. Outcrops of rocks seldom appeared except on the shores of the lakes and creeks and then were either green diorites or grey quartzose schists; but on the shore of Porcupine Lake a portion of one of these masses was exposed holding numerous small quartz veins that seemed to be gold bearing.

Northern Ontario possesses two varieties of lakes, each with its own distinct characteristics. One is that peculiar to the sand lands of the high altitudes in which the water is a clear crystal green and on whose bottom lies heavy calcareous deposits and growths shining up brightly to the surface. These lakes are not numerous as compared with the other class, which are found principally in the clay land. In these the water, a deep amber color, contains varying quantities of vegetable matter, but is always fairly transparent, except in the case of bodies of water like the Abitibi lakes, which hold such a dense mass of clayey material suspended in them that they are entirely opaque and have lost all trace of the amber color. Extensive marshes of alder and willow are commonly found around the mouths of rivers entering or leaving these bodies of water.

In the vicinity of Hollow Sand Lake is a high sand ridge or plateau about four miles in width, which extends away for many miles N.W and S.E. Beautiful crystal green lakes are scattered here and there over it, set down in hollows between steep banks; and there are other immense holes not filled with water, most peculiar for this remarkable emptiness. These are called "kettle holes." Nearly all of this land is now very old brulé of which but few signs remain and in its place scrub Jack pine has grown up. Around the shores of Frederick House Lake (adjoining Hollow Sand), which touches this ridge, is an extensive area of tall, 12" diameter, red pine, with a few much larger white pine scattered amongst them. This is the northern limit for red and white pine.

To reach the Abitibi River from these lakes, the plateau had to be crossed again, but this time in a different part. The place is a very picturesque one. The only objects to break the view are the Jack pines, and by looking away in the distance through these trees one feels as though one were in a vast and beautiful park. The trail, leaving these high lands, descends to the lower country to the east and swampy land is again entered. This condition of the soil continues as far as the Abitibi River hills, with dry higher stretches only