

The timber is principally hard maple, ironwood and black and yellow birch which are found on the higher ground, while the lower levels grow in addition balsam, spruce and some tamarac. The price obtainable for this timber pays the settler for the labor expended in clearing his land and sometimes leaves a profit in addition. The porous character of the soil renders drainage unnecessary, except for unusually low-lying tracts.

St. Joseph's Island, containing about 92,000 acres, lies about twenty-five miles southeast of the Sault, at the entrance to the St. Mary's River. The soil is generally fertile though stony in some parts, and the island well watered and timbered. It is all taken up with the exception of about 4,000 acres, but partly cleared farms can be purchased at reasonable prices, according to the quality of soil and extent of improvements.

Settlement in the townships along the line of the Sault Ste. Marie branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway has extended from five to twenty miles back from the road. There are flourishing settlements at Bruce Mines, Desbarats, Thessalon, Nairn Centre, Massey and other points, and recent accessions of colonists have been numerous, the influx to this excellent grazing and dairying section having been not a little stimulated by the demand for provisions created by the growth of Sault Ste. Marie. The establishment of an extensive pulp mill by the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company near Webbwood will considerably increase the demand for small farm produce of this section.

The Manitoulin Islands contain much excellent arable soil, but it is now nearly all taken up, and the population numbers from 10,000 to 12,000. The building of the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway from Little Current to Sudbury will give the inhabitants of the Manitoulin Islands winter communication with the mainland and improve farming conditions.

The Townships of Korah, Park, Prince, Plummer and St. Joseph's Island are now open for location under the Free Grants and Homesteads Act, but very little good land remains unlocated in them. Various other townships are open for sale and settlement at 50 cents per acre, one half cash and the balance in two equal annual instalments, three years' residence being required before the patent issues.

There are Crown Lands Agencies in the District in charge of R. V. Whalen, at Walford; H. N. Young, at Sault Ste. Marie, and Thomas Buchanan, Thessalon.