

belt, through which the new transcontinental railway line is to run and causes a deviation to the north. It is now accessible from the Canadian Pacific Railway by way of the Nipigon River, and is already a favourite resort of sportsmen. The Nipigon trout is famous and is a great attraction to all lovers of the rod.

While the agricultural value of most of the district is of little moment and its mineral resources are yet uncertain, the value as a timber preserve is unquestionable, although the pine is not now the characteristic tree in that region. The forest consists mainly of spruce, tamarac, jackpine and birch. Considerable areas have been burned over but are renewing the forest where second fires have not completed the work of destruction by sweeping away the new growth. There are still good timber areas, as that along the Ombabika River which enters the north-east corner of the lake, in which it is estimated that there are 1,484,000 acres of pulpwood aggregating 56,346,400 cords. With protection from fire it may be expected that this reserve will in time become again well timbered throughout its area, and will be of great value not only on account of the pulpwood but also for the supply of ties for the railway development which that district may expect in the not distant future.

A description of the district along the Ombabika River is given as follows:—

“In commencing our work we went up the Ombabika River and, as we ascended this river, as far as we could see from our canoe, both banks are well timbered. The land along the banks is mostly sandy; and about ten miles up this river from Lake Nipigon I was instructed to make my first exploration at right angles from the river, and in this trip for the first mile, was rolling sandy soil timbered with white birch, spruce and poplar, and then a rocky country evidently an old *brulé*, as it is now grown up with small jack pine and scrub spruce, and the timber in this exploration would only cut out about ten cords of wood per acre. On the north-west side of the river, and some three or four miles farther up stream in this exploration the timber is much better and the land rolling, with some nice sandy loam flats broken by rocky ridges, and I put the pulpwood, jack pine and spruce only,