

point called Lake Wawanisipi, 80 or 90 miles north of Lake Abittibi by Dr. Robert Bell, of the Geological Survey, was planted and successfully ripened.

#### Division No. 6, Upper Moose or Mattagami division.

Character of country—Fine agricultural land, clay and sandy loam forms part of great clay basin of Moose river, and its numerous tributaries, which take their rise near the Canadian Pacific railway line north of Lakes Huron and Superior, and even south of the line. The head waters of the rivers in this division are well timbered, and the country is well described as an undulating rolling plain, gently sloping towards James' bay.

Soil is good for farming throughout the greater portion of the country.

#### Division No. 7, Kabinakagami River division.

Character of country—Generally level plain, slightly inclined to the west, very easy grade, practically level. Soil, clay for the most part. Land low and swampy in places, needs drainage. Rolling land, heavily timbered.

Timber—Good spruce, tamarack, banksian pine, poplar, red pine, cedar, reported throughout this division, besides white birch, balsam of Gilead.

Then we come to division No. 8, the 8th division out of the twelve into which the line was divided.

#### Division No. 8, Long Lake division.

Character of the country—Fine agricultural land. Level and rolling country. Partially dissected plain. Rocky in the southern portion. Flat and generally level along the projected line. Soil, very productive. Abundant vegetation everywhere. Good timber.

#### District No. 9, Nipigon division (in Thunder Bay district of Ontario).

Character of country—In part level and undulating and part rocky. The Nipigon region constitutes a dissected plain. Good agricultural land, clay soil and clay loam and sandy loam.

Timber—A little north of Lake Nipigon the country is heavily timbered with spruce, banksian pine, poplar and balsam, with occasional birch, also tamarack.

Then we have sections 10, 11 and 12 at the other end of the line, which do not constitute a country which we can call an agricultural country. The last 300 miles, or probably 400 miles, of the line is in a country which it cannot be successfully asserted is likely to be a country which will amount to very much as an agricultural country. There are occasional patches of good land along the water-

courses, but they are not large in extent.

#### A Country Largely Timbered.

This is a country which is largely timbered, which will produce a very considerable amount of business for many years to come by reason of the fact that the railway, if it is constructed as suggested, will go along on the lower reaches of the river and will in that respect be in an exactly converse position to that occupied by the Canadian Pacific railway now. The Canadian Pacific railway, unfortunately for it, in being built from Port Arthur to the Red river, was built in such a way that it runs along just at the southern end of the rivers which run northward and the timber which is situated near the head waters of these rivers cannot be driven to the line of the Canadian Pacific railway, because the flow of the water takes it the other way. The result is that the Canadian Pacific railway between Port Arthur and Winnipeg practically has no lumber business at all except what comes to it from the south by way of the Lake of the Woods. The fact that it touches the Lake of the Woods so that American timber that comes from the Rainy river and across the Lake of the Woods can be shipped by it is the only thing that enables it to do any timber business at all. This line that we are proposing to build will go further north and the timber will be driven down the streams and a large business will be created in that way. I do not know that I need say anything more upon that phase of the subject. I have taken the trouble to have this report prepared, because I thought that the House was entitled to something more than mere fragmentary statements in regard to this matter, and that it was entitled to a systematically prepared statement by a responsible officer of the government which would give us that information and would give it to us in a form that could be relied upon.

#### A Contrast Between Two Lines of Policy.

We are at issue with our hon. friends on the other side of the House upon an important question of policy in regard to colonization. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier and the hon. member for Lanark have taken the position in this House that in regard to the great and important question of opening up the unsettled portions of the provinces