

NEW ONTARIO FORESTS.

Mr. Archibald Henderson, who is one of a party now exploring the region to the west of Lake Abitibi, writes to the Toronto Globe regarding the timber as follows:

Along the rivers, and for the most part the creeks also, the country naturally appears at its best. The most valuable timber, as also the soil promising most for the agriculturist, is here found. White spruce as large as 32 inches in diameter, averaging sixteen inches, aspen and balsam poplar some 28 inches, averaging fourteen inches, are the most valuable trees. Mixed with these are the smaller black spruce, white birch and balsam. Such a forest

unfortunately extends from only two or three chains to half a mile inland from the waterfront. This is not as serious as might seem at first, however, as the whole country is drained by numerous small unnamed rivers and creeks, as yet not marked on any map, besides the large rivers, and each of these as a rule has sloping banks, in some cases from 30 to 40 feet high, and timbered almost as well as the usually somewhat higher banks of the larger rivers. The subsoil in such localities is a heavy clay, covered with several inches of vegetable mould, and supporting besides the timber a rich flora.

Inland from the rivers and creeks the character of the country changes very considerably,

and in various areas assumes four different aspects. By far the greatest part is well wooded with black spruce, in size up to thirteen inches, averaging probably seven inches. These grow on a clay soil overlaid with two or three feet of humus, which again supports moss to the extent of about eight inches. Many of these spruce woods are quite wet and the mossy floor is of a sphagnum nature, while in other drier localities the floor is largely composed of Bryaceous mosses. Scattered through the black spruce are many tamarac, which in wetter areas are collected into tamarac swamps. These trees, unfortunately, are dead almost without exception, having been killed within recent years by the larch sawfly in these areas.

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