

Great central summit of surrounding country from which the main rivers diverge.

River Ottawa, towards its source.

Broad depression in height of land towards Abitibi.

River Quinze or main Ottawa above Lake Temiscaming.

Good pine in Block A.

Scarcer above it, but spruce abounds.

Areas licensed and unlicensed.

The Upper Ottawa territory of Ontario.

River Blanche.

The Montreal River.

General characters of Upper

Gatineau is the great central summit of the high lands, between the waters of the Ottawa and those of Hudson's Bay. This is prominently indicated by the fact that within a distance of 20 miles rise the east branch of the Ottawa, flowing to Lake Temiscaming, the Gatineau flowing south to the Ottawa, the Meciscan branch of the Notaway flowing north to Hudson's Bay, and the St. Maurice flowing east before turning south to the St. Lawrence, and beyond them the Rupert River flowing north and then westward to Hudson's Bay, and the Saguenay flowing east to the Lower St. Lawrence,—all rivers of 300 or 400 miles in length diverging from the high summit region, the elevation of which gives it a temperature too cold for the growth of pine, though tamarac and spruce in parts attain a great size.

Much of the country at the sources of west branch of the Gatineau is bare rocky *brulé*. Near the Gatineau, but 25 miles south of its source, is the source of the east branch of the Ottawa (in a lower and more fertile valley), near which there are some pines, then flowing westward in a more fertile valley for 50 miles, through inferior woods, pine begins again to appear, increasing in quantity and quality, though generally scattering among other woods that prevail of an inferior description.

Respecting the height of land for 170 miles west from the source of the Gatineau we have almost no information till approaching the Labyrinth Lake portage to the River Abitibi, where it sinks into the broad plateau of about 900 feet in height above the sea level, which, with in parts detached hills, extends westward by the sources of the Blanche to the north angle of the Montreal River. Here, owing apparently to advantage in climate, due to less elevation above the sea, and actual comparative depression, pine of a fair growth abounds in groves, and continues to appear occasionally northward to one degree beyond the latitude where it is last seen in the high country on the head waters of the Gatineau. The River Quinze or Main Ottawa enters the head of Lake Temiscaming, near the west boundary of the province of Quebec, 42 miles south of the height of land or north boundary, and 31 miles south of latitude  $48^{\circ}$  north. The source of its east and possibly main branch at the head of Lake Capemachigama, 32 miles south of the height of land and 21 south of latitude  $48^{\circ}$  north, is 190 miles in direct distance from the mouth of the Quinze, though 366 by the exceedingly crooked course of the river. The superior character of timber and abundance of good pine above mentioned is more or less prevalent in Block A., which occupies 2,141 square miles between the Quinze and the height of land. About 60 miles in direct distance up that river pine becomes gradually scarce and scattered, and white birch, spruce, poplar and fir prevail. Though much more pine than is supposed may as usual be found on more complete exploration, it is evident but little pine will be furnished from the remaining tract of a hundred and thirty (130) miles in length, lying upon and north of the Quinze and between it and the height of land. But ultimately it will yield permanently a very considerable supply of spruce and other wood.

The area licensed in the Quebec Upper Ottawa territory, under 529 Crown timber licenses, is 19,269 square miles, of unlicensed waste lands 7,773 square miles (estimated), besides private lands. As the Upper Ottawa territory of Ontario, as before mentioned, formed so long part of the same agency as to administration and accounts as that of Quebec, and its trade has been so long linked with that of Quebec as its market, having hitherto furnished about two thirds of the whole supply of square timber which sustains its export trade, it may be proper to take our proposed notice of it here, and then exhibit the product in timber and revenue of each of the Upper Ottawa territories together. The Upper Ottawa territory of Ontario includes within its outlines an area of 17,163 square miles, apart from the area of 2,294 square miles on Ottawa waters below it. Its chief rivers—the Blanche, the Montreal River, the Matawan, the Petawawe, the Bonnechere, the Madawaska, the Mississippi, the Rideau—have been already enumerated, and their lengths, of course, stated as tributaries of the Ottawa. The Blanche flows through an unusually fertile arable country covered with a fine growth of hard wood trees, with no pine on its course except a few trees at a lake at its source on the height of land, but on the head waters at the Quebec boundary good pine becomes abundant. On the Montreal River good pine originally extended up to the 62nd mile, but even since 1866 fires have done much damage. North of that poplar, birch, and spruce prevail. The country between the Montreal River and Lake Temiscaming is held to be valuable timber land, but at the western watershed bounding this territory pine is absent. Pine is abundant in the country on the west side of the Ottawa down to the Matawan and all below it, back to the rear boundary of the territory and beyond it. The chief part of the Upper Ottawa agency of Ontario, forming about three-quarters of its entire area, is that lying southward of the River Matawan, including the valleys