

## CONDITIONS IN THE CLAY BELT

overlying it. . . . This township is by far the most readily adaptable to agricultural purposes that we have yet been called upon to survey, owing to its uniformly rolling and well drained surface. . . . Spruce forms the chief timber, and is usually of small size, seldom exceeding 12 inches in diameter. Poplar, white birch and tamarack of small size are also plentiful, and occasionally balsam. In only a few places was any quantity of timber of a merchantable size met with. . . . As a whole the township cannot be considered as a valuable timber prospect, but will furnish abundance for domestic supply. The bush is generally thick, and crowded with undergrowth of alder, small cedar, balsam and moosewood.

**P. 41.** (Bradburn township). That portion of the township lying west of the Mattagami river is of a more or less rolling character timbered with spruce up to 16 inches in diameter, balsam of gilead up to twenty inches in diameter, poplar, white birch and balsam of average size and quality, dead and decaying tamarack with alder and willow underbrush and considerable windfall throughout. . . . Taking the township as a whole, I would consider fully sixty per cent suitable for immediate settlement, and I have no doubt that with proper drainage, which can be easily effected, nearly all the remaining of the forty per cent can be made suitable for farming purposes.

**Pp. 84, 85.** (Sydere township). Some choice sections occur in various parts of the township, but as a whole, for agricultural purposes I would class Sydere as only medium. . . . A few large white spruce occur in various localities suitable for milling purposes, but they are not found in sufficiently large numbers to warrant the setting aside of the township as a timber reserve, but there is sufficient white spruce timber to supply the demand for local building purposes, and the township as a whole is well covered with pulpwood and fuel.

**P. 72, 1911.** (Shackleton township). Probably about one-half of the land will be found suitable for farming with drainage and as the percentage of rocky land is small, the agricultural possibilities of these townships are fairly good. The timber is chiefly spruce with here and there some medium sized poplar and some small white birch. The trees as a rule are not large and in many places are of shrubby growth, yet considerable areas of timber suitable for railway ties were passed through.

**P. 94, 1909-10.** (Blount township). In my opinion the township should not be opened for settlement until there is a local market for pulpwood at the railway crossing or at the dam. The wood would pay for clearing and encourage settlement.

**Pp. 97, 99, 1907.** (Leitch township). Black spruce forest extends over the greater portion of the township, on the higher lands these trees are from 8 to 12 inches in diameter but the great bulk of this timber is somewhat smaller. . . . Sandy loam was found in