

nearer lakes all summer and only reach the far away lakes in the winter. They have large ice houses and regular freezers for the summer trade. Ordinarily on those lakes they are able to pay on an average about four cents a fish, or about two cents a pound. The Indians catch fish and sell them to the companies, but they have complained sometimes of the fishing companies going in there. The Indians are not interfered with by the companies as to the catching of fish for their own use, but they claim that the Indian cannot sell to any one but the companies having the leases. The companies are very glad to get the fish. The companies make their own bargains with the Indians.

As to the fisheries of Hudson bay, the witness only knew from his own knowledge that at the mouth of the Winisk they were only catching river fish—speckled trout and whitefish. Porpoise were very plentiful about the mouth of the river, but he saw no other fish. He did not think there were any salmon on the west coast of the bay.

Ducks were fairly plentiful. The geese do not nest in that interior country. They do down along the coast. Witness knew by the descriptions that there are a great many lagoons lying just inside of the shore, along the west coast, where ducks and geese nest in countless thousands. The wild geese live on all sorts of little shell fish, water beetles and crabs, and many seeds of water plants, other than wild rice. He remembered shooting mallards in that country, and their crops were full of little bivalve shells about the size of his nail. The geese are not fish-eating to any extent, and neither are the mallard ducks, still they will eat shell fish.

MINERALS.

Mr. McInnes explained that the forty miles of limestone he spoke of as having passed over north of the Saskatchewan is an excellent stone for building purposes. It has a large proportion of magnesia, perhaps 45 per cent. But it occurs in regular layers and can be got out in thicknesses from a foot up to six feet and in blocks of any size.

There are only two or three belts of what is known as the Keewatin rocks. These are the rocks which in Western Ontario hold gold. The witness found no minerals in commercial quantities. He found traces of copper on File lake. At Cross lake there is an area of these Keewatin rocks cut by intrusive granite of the same character as the photogene of western Ontario, which are almost always gold-bearing, but nothing has been found there. The limestones would make excellent building material. There are some intrusive granites on Grassy river which are of fine texture and beautiful red colour, which would make very fine monumental stone, trimmings for buildings, &c., and would quarry very well. That would be along the projected line of the railway.

There is no possibility of coal there. The rocks are below the coal horizon.

Some man at the Pas has discovered coal oil not far from the Pas, on Pas mountain. The witness saw some of the bituminous shale that was quite impregnated with bitumen, so much so that when some of it was submitted to a professor in Manitoba, he thought it was rich enough to extract it commercially. That is south of the Saskatchewan, however. That is quite an overlying formation which does not extend to the north at all.

An occurrence, that seemed to witness to be of particular interest, was his discovery on the upper Winisk river of a large area of so-called norite rock. That is the rock in which the nicked of Sudbury occurs. It is quite a characteristic rock. Mr. McInnes examined samples under the microscope, and they are not to be distinguished from the other. That leads him to hope that there is a possibility of nickel occurring there too, but he did not find any, although he examined as well as he could. But he had not much time, and was too far way. There are two, or three areas of these Keewatin rocks occurring unfolded in the Laurentian, but Mr. McInnes found no min-