

# Northern Ontario

Northern Ontario is an immense forest robed land, stretching from the Province of Quebec on the east to Manitoba on the west, and extending north for 770 miles from Old Ontario to Hudson Bay, an area of 330,000 square miles, or 208,000 square miles larger than the British Isles. Its climate is similar to that of Manitoba, and its soil is as rich. There are from 16 to 20 million acres of arable land, with only a handful of people, say 250,000, making up its population. Its forest wealth is very great, its mineral wealth alluring, and its volume of water power grand, for there are countless lakes, lakelets and rivers large and small. Game and fish abound, making it the sportman's delight. Already there are thousands of miles of colonization roads and steam railways, spreading like a spider's web over a huge part of that vast new land. Villages, towns and cities have arisen with wonderful modern equipment. Northern Ontario calls, not for the weak and careless, but for the hardy, resolute, self-sacrificing pioneer. Some day it will be the home of millions and in the teeth of frost and fire and all other natural obstacles, as in the Prairie, it will, like Ontario to the south, blossom as the rose.

The following features: Crops, timber, and minerals, tell in brief detail what the new land is and what it has done.

## CROPS.

The different kinds of crops grown in Northern Ontario are cereals, legumes or hay crops, roots and fruits. If regard be paid to proper variety, and right time of seeding, many kinds of grains do well. Here the beginner should get information from older settlers or from the local representative of the Department of Agriculture. Late-maturing grains may be sown for hay. Corn cannot be profitably grown but in certain parts. All kinds of clover have excellent growth, and large returns of very nutritious hay are got. Clover and timothy, with exceptional quality and vitality of seed, are profitably grown practically all over the agricultural areas. The right varieties of alfalfa give very good results in many parts. Avoid southern-grown, United States seed, and use seed of Grimm, Ontario Variegated or of the Russian varieties. Alfalfa will not be so much missed where red clover and alsike grows so luxuriantly. The roots and vegetables of Northern Ontario are not excelled in abundance of growth by any part of the Province. Potatoes show great yields and mangels and turnips do well. An early variety of potato should be planted, particularly in the newer areas; for spring and early fall frosts injure the crops of late maturity; whereas in the older parts, pretty well cleared of timber, summer frosts are gradually going away and the risk of hurt is less. Vegetables of almost any kind give excellent returns. Apples are suitable only along the north shore of the Great Lakes and around large inland lakes, but crab apples do well in a wider range. The beginner should make judicious inquiry as to the growing of fruit, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, etc., practically all kinds of small bush fruits, are grown successfully. Many small fruits, such as black currants, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, are growing wild and can be gathered and preserved for household use.

Coming to closer particulars. — **Spring Marquis Wheat**, in rich clay loam, is grown 5 feet tall, heads averaging 4 inches long, 40 bushels per acre; in lighter soil, 4½ feet tall, heads average 2½ inches high, 35 bushels per acre. **Oats**, white, panicle, about 5½ feet high, strong in straw, head large and well filled, first-class quality, averaging 60 bushels per acre. **Banner type**, 4 to 5 feet high, straw good, much grain plump and well filled, averaging 60 to 80 bushels per acre. **Barley**, O. A. C. No. 21, about 5 feet tall, good straw, heads averaging 2½ inches, well filled; O. A. C. 6-rowed, 52 bushels per acre; common 6-rowed, 4½ feet high, heads 3½ to 4 inches, grain plump and plentiful, 40 bushels and well over per acre; a 2-rowed Barley of the duck-bill type, about 4 feet tall, good straw, heads averaging 2½ inches long, plump and well filled; **Hulless barley**, about 3½ feet tall, heads 2½ inches, well filled and kernels plump. **Rye**, over 6 feet, heads 5 inches, well filled; also 6½ to 9 feet high, straw good, seed plentiful and of good quality. **Flax**, good quality of fibre and well seeded. **Millet**, 5½ feet high, abundance of leaves and well seeded. **Red Clover**, 4 feet high, large heads and good leaf development, can yield 6 to 8 bushels seed per acre; also second crop 2 feet high, with well-developed flower heads. **Sweet Clover**, sown June 1st on virgin soil has grown as high as 8 feet by August 15th. **Timothy**, 4½ to 5½ feet high, with full heads from 3½ to 5 inches long, yielding good hay and seed. **Alsike**, 2 to 2½ feet high, well headed and plenty of leaves, has produced as many as 9 bushels per acre. **Alfalfa**, 3½ feet high, good quality; also second cutting, fine straw, plentiful leaved. **Bromes**, 4½ feet

high. **Natural grass**, from 4 to 5½ feet high, grows in moist localities. **Potatoes**, 200 bags (90 lbs.) and up to 400 bushels per acre. **Turnips and Mangels**, 600 bushels per acre (conservative estimate). **Swedish Turnips**, 12 to 15 pounds each. **Parsnips and carrots**, up to 26 inches long. **Cabbages**, 10 to 20 pounds each. **Peas**, first class, no weevil, as high as 38 bushels per acre.

## TIMBER.

The timber of the great clay belt of Northern Ontario is principally spruce, poplar, balsam of gilead, balsam, with occasional groves of jack pine. Red and white pine are seldom found except on the southern border. The timber is chiefly valuable as pulp, although quantities suitable for lumber are to be found where the land is high. Spruce up to a diameter of 20 inches is not uncommon. Balsam of gilead and poplar are abundant on the high lands and make valuable lumber. Much of the spruce is of small dimensions, average from 4 to 10 inches in diameter. The pulpwood alone of Northern Ontario is a grand asset and a great opportunity for investment. Along the line of the National Transcontinental Railway there are about 300 million cords.

On areas set aside in the Province of Ontario as forest reserves alone there is approximately 9,000,000,000



WHEAT FIELD IN DYMOND TOWNSHIP, NORTHERN ONTARIO

feet of pine, having an estimated cash value of about \$90,000,000. These reserves cover 20,038 square miles, no fewer than 17,870 miles of which are in the southern parts of Northern Ontario.

The settler on complying with the regulations as to residence and improvements in townships which have been opened for location, is entitled to cut and dispose of all the wood other than pine, and the latter under certain conditions.

The work of the settler for the first few years is usually applied to cutting timber and clearing land. But whether he can profitably sell the pulp and logs depends on his capital and the proximity of the market. Even if he is not making more than expenses he should not, if possible, waste good timber. Thus, in case of necessity, he can fall back upon capital he has had foresight to conserve.

The new settler, ignorant in the use of axe, saw and other tools, should, if possible, co-operate with experienced neighbors, rather than hire expensive help, in the work of cutting and hauling. Even if a small amount is marketed he has saved expense and is farther ahead in the end.

The following table gives the cost of timbering and slashing nine acres of virgin forest. The prices for material, especially firewood, are very conservative. The work was done in mid-winter and was, therefore, more costly, particularly also as the different kinds of material were handled separately. Further, much of the best marketable timber had been taken out before. Nevertheless, after paying the highest wages, there was a favorable balance of \$14.38 per acre over and above expenses.

## EXPENDITURE.

| Material.                                          | Cost of Cutting. | Cost of Skidding. | Cost of Hauling ½ Mile. | Cost of Making Roads. | Totals.  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Logs.....22,642 cords.                             | \$36.88          | \$28.58           | \$17.28                 | \$2.72                | \$85.46  |
| Pulp..... 30                                       | 37.33            | 31.24             | 20.59                   | 2.72                  | 91.88    |
| Wood..... 50                                       | 28.77            | 11.82             | 10.83                   | 2.72                  | 54.14    |
| Slashing undergrowth.....                          |                  |                   |                         |                       | 28.77    |
| Sharpening axes and saws, harness repairs, etc.... |                  |                   |                         |                       | 5.35     |
| Milling, 22,642 feet of lumber at \$4.25 per M.... |                  |                   |                         |                       | 96.22    |
| Total Cost.....                                    |                  |                   |                         |                       | \$361.82 |
| Average cost per acre.....                         |                  |                   |                         |                       | \$ 40.20 |

## REVENUE.

|                                                  |          |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 22,642 feet of lumber at \$15.00 per M.....      | \$339.63 |
| 30 cords of pulpwood at \$3.25 per cord.....     | 97.50    |
| 50 cords of firewood, valued at cost.....        | 54.14    |
| Total.....                                       | \$491.27 |
| Revenue per acre.....                            | \$ 54.58 |
| Difference between revenue and cost per acre.... | \$14.38  |

The above table deals with a partial clearing in 1906 and 1907; it does not include stumps. These were

blasted in the spring of 1915, and the following table is an accurate account of the cost of labor and material in connection with 7½ acres in sections of 2½ acres each.

| Lot Acres                              | Man hrs. at 20c. | Team hrs. at 20c. | Powder Caps, Fuse. | Total.   |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1 2½                                   | 127 \$25.40      | 20 \$4.00         | \$ 9.64            | \$39.04  |
| 2 2½                                   | 138 27.60        | 26 5.20           | 11.58              | 44.38    |
| 3 2½                                   | 182 36.40        | 40 8.00           | 12.00              | 56.40    |
| Cost of Barnding, 114 hrs. at 20c..... |                  |                   |                    | 22.80    |
| Total.....                             |                  |                   |                    | \$162.62 |

Average per acre..... \$21.69

There is a difference between lots 1 and 3 of \$17.36, which is explained by the fact that there has been no second growth on lot 1 while there had been on lot 3. It does not, therefore, pay to allow a second growth before the final clearing of stumps. Adding together the average cost per acre as shown by the two tables, namely, \$40.20 and \$21.67 respectively, the result is a total cost of \$61.88 per acre for complete clearing, as against a revenue of \$54.58 per acre, which makes the net cost \$7.30 per acre. Prior to second growth, and assuming capital and marketing proximity, the settler may count on realizing about enough from timber to clear the land and earning a wage of \$2 per day. In eight or ten years his land should be worth at least \$20 per acre.

For free descriptive literature and full information about this great clay belt of Ontario,

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