

CONDITIONS IN THE CLAY BELT

was observed, that on descending a gentle slope after passing through such a swamp the advantage of ample drainage was at once apparent from the firm clay soil and large timber. With reference to agricultural operations the chief need would be thorough drainage, and this being carried out would in our opinion render more than ninety per cent of the entire area of the township valuable to the farmer and stock raiser.

P. 61. (Prosser township): Almost the entire area would be available for agricultural purposes, the few rock outcrops probably not covering in the aggregate an area of more than three hundred acres. For successful cultivation drainage would be necessary over the greater part but would offer no difficulties in the way of outlet. . . . The timber here would be chiefly valuable for pulpwood. Considerable areas of windfall occur in the westerly part, one especially notable extending from the west boundary in concession four in a northeasterly direction across the township, almost the entire forest growth having been laid prostrate before a southwesterly wind.

P. 94, 1906. (Carnegie township). The whole is well adapted for agricultural purposes. . . . Spruce forms by far the greater part of the timber, and does not usually exceed twelve inches in diameter on the level bush lands, but on slopes and creek banks where the drainage is ample, numerous trees are met with of a diameter of twenty inches.

P. 97. (Reid township). Nearly all of this township is available and well suited for agricultural purposes, the flat lands offering no exceptional difficulties to drainage. . . . The whole area is covered with forest, and for the greater part thickly timbered. Spruce forms the chief, and in many parts the only forest tree, especially in that part lying west of the above named river (Mattagami). This tree ranges from three inches in the undrained flats to nearly two feet in diameter on high rolling ground.

P. 81, 1905. (Galna township). Generally speaking the soil of this township is a fertile clay or clay loam with here and there a cranberry swamp. Along the south boundary from about the centre of lot eight to about the centre of lot eleven the soil is a light sand. A large portion of the shore line of lower-lake Abitibi is covered with boulders. . . . The spruce is nearly all good, clear timber, varying from four to fifteen inches.

P. 118, 1906. (Moody township). The greater portion of the township will require artificial drainage, but the natural facilities are so well developed that the artificial drainage will be a work comparatively of little cost. . . . Apart from a small area of muskeg to be found principally in concessions one and two, this township is particularly well adapted for agricultural purposes. The land is fertile and durable. The clearing can be quickly done and at little cost. Good roads can be built at a small cost. . . . On