

Alexandria, 50 miles west of Cochrane, the intersection of the National Transcontinental Railway and Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, near the centre of the clay belt, nearly every variety of vegetable and flower common to older Ontario, brought to maturity, and with a yield not to be surpassed in York County. This is not an exceptional case, and it has happened more than once that potatoes, which we saw in process of planting on our journey to the surveys in the latter part of May, had, in the short space of three months, come to maturity, as our menu attested on the return trip.

Summer frosts are experienced occasionally, but was not this the case in the early settlements near Lake Ontario? It has been abundantly shown that the general opening up of farms, the elimination of peaty turf, and the introduction of drainage, work wonders in the way of banishing summer frosts.

In the matter of timber, it is not to be expected that the monarch pines, oaks, maples, etc., formerly flourishing in Southern Ontario, can be found in the North. Instead, we meet spruce, poplar, balsam, tamarac, cedar, and birch, usual, within reach of the prospective settler, but of comparatively small girth and height, except in the vicinity of the rivers and creeks. The clearing of the land is, therefore, correspondingly lighter. The prevalence of moss gives to the uninitiated the impression that much of the country consists of swamp lands, but a more intimate acquaintance corrects it. We find that the first fire consumes a part of the timber and kills the remainder. A second burning causes the dead timber to vanish, and with it the moss, transforming the apparent swamp into a stretch of country requiring the minimum of labor to prepare it for the plough.