

...rocks. The ... side of the ... except in the ...

CHARACTER, FOREST, ETC.

Soils and Forest. The general character and agricultural character of western Nova Scotia were given in the report already referred to. I shall now proceed to describe the soils and forest of the remaining portions, treating the forests according to their geological relations. Reference will also be made to the mineral portions, such as lime, gypsum, marl, etc., wherever they occur in workable quantities.

Forest and Soils.

In that large tract referred to in the north of the province occupied by Miramichi, which includes Restigouche and Madawaska counties and portions of Victoria, Charlton and Gloucester, the surface is undulating and the soil, as already remarked, deep, with clayey beds in places, but is more usually a general, carrying greater or less quantities of pebbles; and being largely derived from the limestones and slates beneath, is highly calcareous, so much so, indeed, that only on the alluvial flats and river swamps would lime be a fertiliser of any benefit to it. Intervals and terraces of greater or less width, affording excellent soil, skirt all the larger rivers traversing it. The whole area is well watered by rivers and streams, and well drained. Limestone is abundant, and limas at Petite Rivière, Miramichi River, Belledune and other places, supply the local demand for lime, very little of which is used, however, as a fertilizer. The best lands in this district are in the interior, especially along the upper Restigouche and St. John waters, including the western part of Restigouche, Madawaska, Victoria and Charlton counties. The tract bordering the lower Restigouche and Bellefleur is dry and stony, from the presence of the *dolomite* trap rock intermingled. (See Mr. Ellis' report and maps, Report of Progress, 1873-75).

Forest and Soils.

The natural fertilizers found in this section are lime, marl, and gypsum, the latter occurring, however, only along the southern border in the Petite Rivière, in Lower Cumberland shales.

Forest trees.

The forest trees occur on the more elevated and drier grounds in this tract of country, the white spruce, balsam fir, white and red pine, white birch and yellow birch, poplar, beech, oak or chest species of maple, white-oak, American chestnut, hop-hornbeam, various species of willow (*Salix*), *Amelanchier*, and from the swampy grounds we find *Spiraea* (*Viburnum*), *Myrica* (*Myrica*), and *Phragmites*.