

3 feet in diameter, and towards the head of the Albany River, and near Lake St. Joseph, there are forests of pitch pine, which is a valuable wood in that country, with trees averaging nearly 2 feet in diameter, according to the authority of Prof. Bell, who has explored that region. I believe the value of the country is equal to that of any part of the North-West. I believe that the vast region north of the height of land and along the waters of the Moose and Albany is in a great measure valuable for agriculture, and will yet sustain a very large population. It is not alone this great country which will give traffic to railways, but through that country this Parliament has already granted four charters to railways leading down to Hudson's Bay. I believe that great inland sea, with which the Canadian Pacific Railway will be connected, and with which this country will be connected, possesses resources which are not yet dreamt of. I believe the region to be opened will prove very rich in fisheries of every description, and in minerals. I believe we will have a great traffic arising from that bay, and I should not be at all surprised if it were found before long that the section of the line north of Lakes Huron and Superior was the best paying portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, considering the mineral wealth and the resources of that immense region. We know that in a country farther westward, 200 miles north of Lake Superior, wheat grows well; we know that there are rivers there which are navigable for miles, with magnificent forests and excellent land on their banks; we know that cattle thrive throughout that whole region, and why then should it be called a barren country? With regard to its mineral wealth, I should think that the testimony of such a man as Professor Agassiz should have very great weight, and he declared long ago that one of the most important regions of the world—and he had travelled over the whole world, and was considered one of the first scientists of his day—was that country north of Lake Superior, and that it would eventually prove to be one of the richest mineral regions on the face of the earth. The results so far obtained have demonstrated the accuracy of that statement. A few days ago there were no less than \$400,000 paid in New York for a mine, covering a few acres in Thunder Bay, within 15 miles of Prince Arthur's Landing. That gives some idea of the resources of this country, and as it is opened up, no doubt its mineral interests will be of very great importance.

Mr. TROW. I have only a few words to say, and I would not have risen but for a remark which has been made by the hon. member for Algoma. Whether inadvertently or not, but certainly not intentionally, in my remarks the other day on the Canadian Pacific Railway Resolutions, I stated that I had travelled over a portion of the intended route of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that I considered that the portion which came under my observation was inhospitable and not adapted to successful settlement. Furthermore, during my travels I fell in with parties whom I presumed were familiar with that portion of the country, and the information which I gathered from them was that the land was not adapted to cultivation; that the climate was not suitable, and from the inaccessible mountains and ravines which were described as abounding in that country, I naturally came to the conclusion that that information was correct, and I wrote to a local paper in my riding at the time to that effect. However, since I made that statement I have taken the precaution to read some reports on the subject, and more particularly the reports of Mr. Borron, a former member of this House, who is employed by the Ontario Government. In that gentleman I have very great confidence, and believing every word he states to be correct, to the best of his knowledge, I have come to a different conclusion with reference to the adaptability of many portions of that

Mr. DAWSON.

section of the country to settlement. He has made observations on the country, from Lake Superior to James' Bay, and also to Hudson Bay, and down the various rivers and ravines, and he has travelled there very extensively for several summers. I yield to his judgment, and I believe there are large tracts of land upon and adjoining these rivers which are adapted to settlement. There are very large limits of excellent timber, and there is no doubt there are very valuable minerals. I merely make this statement because the hon. gentleman mentioned my name, and in order to contradict the statement I made the other day. I have no desire to misrepresent or decry the country and would not do it under any circumstances. My object is to see the country settled and aid in its settlement and progress to the best of my ability.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew). I am glad the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson) has drawn the attention of the House to the question now under consideration, and I think after the speech which has been delivered by my hon. friend from South Perth (Mr. Trow) the House must admit the value of the motion which has been submitted by the hon. member for Algoma. I was, I confess, considerably surprised on reading the statement made by the hon. member for South Perth in the discussion which took place on the Canadian Pacific Railway Resolutions. I was greatly surprised to learn that that hon. gentleman had stated that there were not, in his opinion, 10,000 acres of cultivable land, between Callander and Winnipeg; because I had known, of my own knowledge, long previous to that time, that in the immediate vicinity of Callander, and between that place and Sudbury Junction, a larger portion of land than the quantity mentioned by the hon. member for Perth was cultivable and was actually in occupation by settlers at the present moment. I think it is to be regretted that statements such as those which fell from the lips of the hon. member for Perth, in the discussion to which I referred, should have been sent to the world on the authority which statements made by hon. members in this House must naturally have in the country, and I am glad to know that the hon. gentleman has to-day admitted that the information on which he made that statement was incorrect. I have a statement made by a gentleman on whose opinion, I think I can thoroughly rely, that large portions of the country between Callander and Winnipeg are cultivable and are admirably adapted to settlement. I hold in my hand a letter which was written to me some years ago by Mr. Wm. Bell, D.L.S., who was occupied for some years in surveying limits under the authority of the Ontario Government, on the north shore of Lake Huron, and between that section of country and the Ottawa River. He said:

"Along the Amable Dufond River and several miles west of it, there are extensive flats of rich, loamy soil, thence westward a beautiful undulating country extends to Lake Nipissing and South River and a considerable distance west of that river. The soil is generally a sandy loam on the higher lands and clay loam on the flats. In some parts the timber is pine, mixed with hardwood, and in many places, hemlock, hardwood and balsam. From Lake Nipissing, the country ascends gradually to the south, and at a distance of 15 miles from the Lake in that direction extensive ridges of maple, birch and beech, occur, mixed occasionally with hemlock and balsam, pine being seldom met with. The soil is a sandy loam. The whole country described above is fit for settlement."

"On the north side of Lake Nipissing and Mattawa River a large tract of country extending northerly to Lake Temiscamingue is covered chiefly with hard balsam and spruce. Pine is most abundant near the Ottawa, but a few miles west of that river it becomes scarce. Over a large proportion of this tract, the soil is a clay loam of good quality and nearly all of it is suitable for settlement."

He concludes his letter in these words:

"In my opinion, there is no part of the unoccupied land of the Crown which affords so large an unbroken tract of country suitable for settlement as the territory described therein."

I know, as a matter of fact, that on the shores of Lake Temiscamingue, both in the Province of Ontario and the