

densely and with so few breaks that the effect is depressing. Exposures of rocks of any kind are not numerous. However, this country is principally Huronian and is mineral bearing as may be seen from Mr. Burwash's geological report to the Bureau of Mines in 1896. His investigations were made along a meridian line running north from the north-east corner of Lumsden township and a few miles west of the Montreal River, which line traverses rocky country of the Huronian age. Several gold bearing quartz veins were found here by him.

Leaving the river at the above mentioned Bend and paddling through Lake Matachewan (about 10 miles in length) we crossed the long chain of portages and small lakes which lead over the height of land into James Bay waters. These trails traverse large areas of both sand and clay, all on about the same level. Swamps occur at intervals, covered with tamarack and tall, slim white spruce, the characteristic trees of these places. Night Hawk River, the first water entered flowing towards James Bay, winds through a swampy area over six miles in width. As the mouth on Night Hawk Lake is approached, the land rises and the more pleasant color of poplar and birch groves greet the eye.

Night Hawk Lake is a large expanse of very muddy water containing many islands. A river six miles long flows from its northern end into another similar but smaller body of water called Hollow Sand Lake, whose greatest breadth is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. These lakes and surrounding country are very similar to the Abitibi lakes and country, being in the same latitude and about 40 miles west. The shore lines are formed of diminutive cliffs 10' to 30' high of a finely stratified and very pure clay or, more rarely, sand, both covered by a good depth of black mould. Around the lakes the poplars appeared for the first time in abundance, the average tree being about 30' high and 5"-6" in diameter, though some reach over 20" diameter and are correspondingly high. This description applies with fair accuracy to all the poplar trees throughout the country to James Bay. The ash grows along the banks of some of the creeks as far north as the 49th Lat., but it is short and small in diameter—3"-5".

The country for 10 miles west of Night Hawk Lake was examined by making use of some of the old trails which connect lake to lake over all these vast Indian hunting grounds. The land is of both clay and sand, generally swampy and covered with the slim spruce and