

jack pines, spruce, tamarack and birch. Climate is not any more severe than that of Quebec. Hills disappear at the height of land. At 380 miles from its mouth, the St. Maurice is still a large river. Above Grand Piles station, last station up the St. Maurice valley, navigation is good for seventy miles. Numerous surveys by Richardson, Ingall, Bouchette and other surveyors and explorers, and geologists, have been made.

That is about the worst part of the country, or nearly so.

Division No. 8, the upper Gatineau.

Above 100 miles from mouth of the Gatineau, country is generally level, rocky hills occasionally seen. Soil, sandy loam. Oats, barley, pease, spring and fall wheat under cultivation. Excellent reports from all sources. Timber abundant. Spruce, balsam, fir, white birch, black birch, white and brown ash, also maple, besides white and red pine. Minerals, nickel, copper, iron, limestone, etc. Water power, excellent. Character of crops grown indicate nature of the climate.

Surveyed by Jas. Richardson, 1870, from Deserit river to height of land, head waters of the Gatineau. Head waters of the St. Maurice on to Lake Mistassini, revealed a flat, undulating plain, with good flats of farming land throughout the country.

Upper Ottawa division, No. 4.

This division comprises a good portion of the unorganized country of the county of Pontiac. Country generally flat or undulating plain, part of Hudson Bay basin. The southern portion hilly and rocky. Middle portion, through which the line traverses, is flat and easy grade. Soil—large areas of dry clay soil extend around the height of land. Although the district as a whole is suitable for agricultural purposes, still in many places considerable areas of good land are known to exist.

I may say that from the northern slope of the height of land the southern part of the clay belt is well timbered, the waters running down to the northward. The railways must run along the northern part of the clay belt if we are to put it in such a position that the timber can be got out. Every man who is familiar with lumbering knows what I mean when I say that the timber can only follow the flow of the river, and the railway must cross the lower region, otherwise the timber cannot be driven down and reach the railway. A branch railway must go on the northern side of the clay belt so as to take in the lower region of the river and enable the timber to be driven down, so that the large

timber resources of the province of Ontario lying along the northern slope of the height of land may be rendered available for commerce.

Timber on the lowlands, mostly spruce, tamarack and fir. On the high land, birch, poplar, spruce and red pine. The country has been many times surveyed, and traversed by explorers since the early part of last century. Gold, gypsum, lignite, have been discovered.

Mr. Clancy—Will the hon. gentleman say what page of the report he is reading from?

The Minister of the Interior—I am reading an abstract from information in the geological survey, which has been made at my request and by my instructions, by Dr. H. M. Aml, a member of the geological survey, who will be responsible for the correctness of the information which he has taken from the official survey.

Surveys by the geological surveys of Canada, by the crown lands commissioners of Ontario and Quebec, as well as by the officers of the Ontario bureau of mines, afford valuable information on the resources of this division, who all state favorably.

Division No. 5, Abitibi division.

Minerals—Iron, copper, magnetic iron pyrites and steatite are reported, and inasmuch as the great Huronian belt of metalliferous rocks traverses this region further discoveries are anticipated.

Timber—White and red pine found over the whole region. On the north side of the height of land pine trees measure from eight to nine feet in circumference.

I heard a statement made, I think by the hon. member for Hamilton, last night, that there was not any timber up in that country any larger than a man's thigh. We have here an official report which states that there is timber there ranging from eight to nine feet in circumference. Our hon. friends have a very contracted idea of the resources of their own provinces.

Soil and climate—The whole country northward from the mouth of the Montreal river is pretty correctly described as level clay plain with rocky hills protruding here and there through it. Mark the distinction between this region and the country south. Clay appears to be uniform throughout the whole region. Several acres of this clay soil are cultivated at the Hudson's Bay company's post at Abitibi. All the ordinary cereals cultivated on the St. Lawrence can be cultivated at Abitibi.

I may here mention that in 1896 or 1897 seed which had been sent to a