

ing. The wolves might be destroyed if a large enough bounty were offered to tempt professional wolvers. They would soon clean them out, and witness thought it would be worth doing that.

MINERALS.

Mr. Bredin mentioned having seen the gas well on the Athabaska river, about 120 miles from Athabaska Landing, last summer. The gas was blowing off, but it was not ignited. His party lit it up and it blazed up about some 25 or 30 feet. About 50 or 60 miles below that the gas is all the time escaping from the clay banks of the river and in the river itself, because all across the river you can see the bubbles rising. The witness had lit that gas, too, and boiled his tea pail there by hanging it over the flame.

At Fort McMurray an outfit has been boring for oil two seasons. When the witness was there in August last they were down 1,200 feet without striking anything of commercial value, but afterwards they went through over 250 feet of salt in boring there. All along the Athabaska, for a distance of 50 miles above McMurray, and probably 100 miles below it, there are indications of oil, and the tar is just dropping out of the banks all the time. For about 100 miles along the river the bank is practically asphalt. To a layman it looks just like asphalt, tar and sand mixed together.

Then again on Great Slave river down towards Chipewyan there is tar dropping out of the rocks on the banks of the river.

Immediately back of Fort Smith, some 20 miles, the supply of salt for the whole north country is got, and has been got for a great many years, ever since the traders went into the northwest.

Down on the south shore of Great Slave lake, the sandstone is saturated with tar or oil, and in the bay at the north side of the west end of the lake there is a spring of tar.

As far as the witness went down the Mackenzie, there are no more indications of oil or salt, but below the point he went to, at Fort Norman and Good Hope, oil or tar is found again, besides salt and coal.

On his way from McMurray to Prince Albert, the witness found that the tar sands appear on Buffalo lake, which is on the Churchill system of water, and that, in his opinion, shows that the tar sands are both on the Mackenzie water system and on the Churchill system, on both sides of the divide there.

There is coal on the Athabaska, 20 miles north of Fort McMurray, near Fort McKay. On the Peace river there is said to be gypsum, below Boiling Rapid. There is coal near Peace river crossing, and also on the Peace in the mountains, not very far from Hudson's Hope. At Fort St. John there is a crust of some kind of iron ore which they use as paint. The Hudson bay buildings at Fort St. John are painted from this mineral paint found there. Between Lesser Slave lake and the mountains the country is more or less underlaid with coal.

Being asked if in all that country he had been describing, coal is not more or less apparent, Mr. Bredin remarked, you may travel hundreds of miles there without hearing of coal. Between Fort McKay, which is 20 miles north of Fort McMurray, and away down to Norman and Good Hope, he never heard of coal.

CLIMATE.

Mr. Bredin claimed that the climate generally all over that country is no worse than the climate of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The worst of it is no worse than the climate of those provinces. He had spent a number of winters at Lesser Slave lake and could see no difference between the climate there and at Edmonton. Lesser Slave lake is 250 miles north and 250 miles west of Edmonton. On the Peace he left Fort St. John one spring, and the grain was up there six or seven inches. He must have been at least a month going to Edmonton, and when he got there the grain was just in the same stage of growth as the grain had been when he left Fort St. John, so it is earlier there. They very often seed at Fort St. John in March, and invariably no later than