

feet. In March it begins to settle, but is not finally gone till the 8th or 10th of April. In summer there is more moisture here than further south, owing to the greater elevation and vicinity to the lakes, from which cool breezes prevail. There is freedom from drought which is so mischievous below, rendering the district peculiarly favorable for stock-raising and the dairy. Owing to the salubrity of the climate and the mineral nature of the water, many, who were sickly before coming here, have since become healthy and strong. If we have somewhat more snow, we can fairly claim that, almost as soon as the snow is gone, the land is dry for the plough, and soon ready for the seed. Wheat sown in the last week of April will be ripe by the second week in August.

Rains are abundant in spring and autumn. Fogs are rare. The hottest months of summer are July and August, and the coldest months of winter are January and February. During the winter months we enjoy almost without interruption a fine clear sky, and the atmosphere is peculiarly bracing. The Indian summer, which generally occurs in October, is a delightful time of the year. The sleighing season, in winter, is also a pleasant period.

THE SOIL.

While large flats of clay are found in many places, the soil is mostly of a loamy nature. The average amount fit for cultivation will probably be two-thirds. One gratifying fact is that the land, on being cleared and cultivated, has turned out much better than was anticipated.

TIMBER.

The timber south of Muskoka Falls is principally composed of pine of fair quality; north of the Falls, a very perceptible change is noticeable, the great proportion being composed of hardwood, consisting of maple, basswood, beech, birch, elm, &c.

SCENERY.

The scenery is varied, and in many instances extremely grand. At Beaver Creek, about 9 miles north of Washago, the rocks rise almost perpendicular near 200 feet, from the loftiest peak of which a deer, being closely pursued, is said to have leaped down in safety to the valley below and thereby escaped.