

Asked as to the size of the Dubawnt lake, witness explained that he travelled around one side of it for about 150 miles, but the other shores were not visible from that side. Nobody knows the full size of that lake. The south and east shores, as shown on the map, are just an imaginary sketch. Standing on the hills on the west shore the witness could not see the east shore, though the hills on which he stood were several hundred feet high. It is a large body of water. The map merely shows the lakes that are known. There are thousands of others that we know nothing of, because nobody has been through there. Some of the larger ones are sketched in. The witness sketched in many, from the reports of the Esquimaux, and they still appear as he so sketched them on the map. The whole country is studded with lakes.

The Esquimaux live entirely on fish and game. They have not very good means of catching fish. The Esquimaux usually catch the fish with short lines made of sinew, which are very poor and elastic. They cannot keep them long in the water at a time. Then a piece of twisted iron serves for a hoop.

These natives often suffer from hunger, because while the deer are very, very plentiful at times, still they are gregarious, gathering together in herds and those herds do not always follow the same course. There may not be a sign of deer near where the Esquimaux live, and they have no means of knowing though there may be a herd within 15 or 20 miles of them.

Mr. Tyrrell came across a good many cariboo in the north, and he had taken photographs of great herds of cariboo. He did not get as far north as the musk-ox country.

MINERALS.

Mr. Tyrrell explained that the primary object in all his explorations through that country was the mineral development of the country, and any other information that he collected was incidental.

From a line at Cumberland House on the Saskatchewan river northwestward to the Churchill river, and westward from the Churchill river, the country to the south of that line is underlaid by the more recent clay rocks of the plains, and the mineral wealth that is to be looked for there is coal and iron. He has considerable confidence in both those most useful products being found in that country.

Coal is found on the Saskatchewan river at Edmonton, and on the Pembina river, west of Edmonton, and there are several more outcroppings of coal down the Saskatchewan river as far as Prince Albert. He had been told coal has been found out near Lac La Ronge, but most of the country north of the Saskatchewan river has not been explored for coal. It is a country of gentle slopes covered with grass and wood, and the coal outcropping in such a country is certain to be covered. There is no possibility of seeing it as a natural outcrop. It has to be looked for, but it has not been looked for in that country to find it, so he is perfectly confident that the same seams that outcrop on the Saskatchewan, in the west at all events, will be traced much further north.

North of the coal land there is a district from Cumberland House northeastward towards the Nelson river which is underlain by what are known as Keewatin and Huronian rocks, the same rocks that they are finding in northern Ontario at the present time. The very existence of those rocks is barely known. There has been practically no exploration of them, no prospecting, so that no one can say as to whether they are to be a barren portion of those rocks which are rich elsewhere, or whether they are to be like the Huronian and Keewatin rocks elsewhere, rich in minerals of some of the kinds desired.

Comparing them with the rocks in other places, they have large possibilities.

From that point there is an area of sandstone in the vicinity of Cree lake which may contain copper, but we know of nothing of it yet. It is something of the age of the rocks that are rich in copper around Lake Superior, but it has no mineral wealth shown as yet.