

where the trees are scattered and exposed their habit of growth is very different, being then low and bushy, with branches from the ground.

(5) There are also dry areas, which are covered by a small scrubby brush consisting of low spruce, small poplar, etc. This forest is especially common along the height of land, where the soil is rocky or barren.

(6) Comparatively large areas are open muskeg. This is covered with stunted spruce and dead tamarack, with an occasional green shoot springing up. The spruce are seldom more than 10 feet high and 2 inches to 3 inches in diameter in the most open parts. In some of these muskegs there are not enough trees to obstruct the view, and one can see objects for a mile or two. The largest muskeg I saw was about three miles long and one to two wide. All gradations between the open muskeg and the dense spruce swamp exist.

(7) Where the original forest was burnt a separate condition prevails. After a forest has been fire swept it takes four or five years for the young shoots to get a good start. The deciduous trees always spring up first in this district, so that poplar and canoe-birch form the chief forest growth for a number of years. Then slowly the spruce begins to push up and overtop the others, and when the forest is thirty to fifty years old it becomes fairly well mixed.

GENERAL GEOLOGY.

Much difficulty was experienced in working out the geology of the district on account of the scarcity of rock exposures. The railway trial and location lines run on or near the height of land plateau, where the country is flat for long distances and the rocks are deeply covered with clay and moss. Except in an occasional hill the outcrops were found along the shores of lakes and the banks of rivers. This is especially true of the western part. East of the Migiskan river in many places on the higher ground rock exposures are frequent.

Keewatin.

From Makamik lake to east of the Bell river the rocks consist largely of green hornblende schists, chlorite schists with small areas of diabase and altered porphyries, and an occasional hill of granite.