

elm, balsam, tamarack, hemlock and red and white birch. A pulp company is being formed to use Jenison's water power and spruce timber from along the railway line.

Contracts have been entered into with companies and citizens of Fort William and Port Arthur for the haulage of 5,000 cords of wood per annum, and these parties have been bound down to purchase their wood as much as possible from settlers along the line, and the railway company has a voice in the price to be paid to the settlers for their wood. Other contracts have been made for the haulage of ties, timber and logs. After crossing the height of land the railway touches on numerous streams, which will afford facilities for getting out timber.

The tale of the minerals is extensive. The first part of the line runs over what is described as an enormous deposit of slate iron shale, which is of value for ballast, street paving, bricks, paint, etc. A firm in Denver, Colorado, uses twenty carloads a day of this kind of material for paint works. After passing through the farming land of McIntyre and Ware, it touches on a large blanket deposit of low grade spathic iron ore, which it is anticipated will be utilized when electricity can be used to smelt it. After crossing the height of land the line will pass within a few miles of a large deposit of iron ore of very high grade. An assay of a picked sample of this shows the following results:—Metallic iron, 67.20; silica, 2.80; phosphorus, .067; titanium, .000. Other mineral products of the valley are mineral and salt springs, sandstones, marls, clay, sand, kaolin, asbestos, limestone, plumbago, red paint ore, roofing mica, gold and silver bearing rocks and an immense deposit of marble, in layers of from 12 inches to 12 feet.

This is, it is believed, the largest deposit of the kind in Canada, as it extends from within fourteen miles of the C.P.R. at Black Bay to and across the Pash ko Kagan River, and is believed to underlie an area of 10x30 miles, about 200,000 acres. An earthquake, or some natural disturbance, has here and there thrown it up, and formed palisades, where the marble is seen, sometimes capped, other times not. All the colors of the rainbow can be obtained, but white predominates. The Ontario Government took out dressed samples and sent them to the Cincinnati Exposition, which samples were on view at the Niagara Museum. It is said that this will prove a very valuable flux for certain ores. An assay of a surface specimen of the white shows:—Carbonate of lime, 53.80; carbonate of magnesia, 44.77; ferric oxide, .50; silicic acid and alumina, .93. This section has enormous

layers or deposits of limestone, the only known ones in Algoma West. This of itself should furnish in time a good low price traffic to the railway, and is necessary to the growth of the district and the prosperity of the coming iron industry. At Lake St. Joseph are lignite coal beds.

So far as scenery goes, the "St. Joe" will hold its own. After working its way through the ridge for about one mile, through the "Devil's Canyon," it passes close to "Look Down Mountain," from which can be seen Pie Island, and McKay's and Rabbit Mountains, the range running from McKay's Mountain to Rabbit Mountain. It is possible to see the whole panorama of Thunder Bay, Kaministiquia Valley, Whitefish Valley, mouth of Slate River, Neebing and McIntyre Rivers from their start to finish, the Dawson and Oliver roads, Murlillo and away into the Dog Lake height of land, a rolling panorama of grass and woodland. By taking the Dog Lake steamer it is possible to visit the Dog Lake Falls, which have twice the drop of Niagara. Looking the other way from the eastern Dog Lake height of land, the "Chinese wall" is visible, one of the curiosities of America—a wall of white quartz—sometimes 80 feet wide and 50 feet high; and then a gentle slope down to Nipigon with 100 lakes in view, a gently undulating pastoral land, and when the marble is reached, it is possible to see a white cliff unbroken for a mile.

Lake Nipigon is a sheet of water 50x80 miles, with over 500 islands and islets, "the best rod fishing ground in the world." The company has petitioned the Ontario Government to set apart Lake Nipigon and its tributaries, following out their Algonquin Park plan, as the Nipigon Provincial Fishing Park.

Some proofs of these assertions may well be in place. As to the resources of the district in timber and minerals, the following extracts from official reports will be of interest:—

Dr. Bell of the Geological Survey Department says:—"The supply of spruce pulpwood around Lake Nipigon and vicinity is practically inexhaustible."

Mr. John Baxendale writes from Murlillo:—

"I am a farmer. I was on the C.P.R. survey with Mr. Carr's party around Nipigon and Black Sturgeon Lakes in 1873. Members of the survey found plumbago, asbestos and native silver. The timber, especially the spruce, was good. I think I am a judge of land, and I say that I saw land that for farming purposes is as good as any man could wish for."

Mr. Zeph Malhiot, C.E., writes from Port Arthur the following extended report of his inspection of the district:—

"I have gone over the route of the