

NORTH-WESTERN ONTARIO.

[THE DISPUTED TERRITORY].

GENERAL FEATURES.

To say that the country lying between Port Savanne and Cross Lake—and in general outline this is very similar to the country lying to the North of Lake Superior—was an earthly paradise, or a very promising agricultural region, would be a very grave error. It is not now, and never will be, the home of a large and prosperous agricultural population. On the other hand, it is a great mistake to suppose that the Disputed Territory is destitute of good farming land. From Rainy Lake to Lake of the Woods there is a broad belt of very fertile and lightly timbered land, that will furnish homes for a prosperous farming community of no insignificant dimensions. What the width of this belt of choice land is has not as yet been determined, but its length is not less than from 90 to 100 miles. Formerly it was supposed to have an average width of seven miles, but more recent and extended explorations by thoroughly reliable men have brought to light the fact that the belt of first rate farming land along the north bank of Rainy River is very much wider than it was at first supposed to be. Elsewhere the views of gentlemen well acquainted with this portion of the Territory are given at some length, and the reader will be convinced that in the valley of Rainy River, at least, farmers can make homes for themselves, that promise quite as well as the splendid prairie farms of Manitoba and the Northwest. The climate of this particular portion of the "debateable land" is peculiarly favorable to luxuriant vegetation. The summers, though not long, are hot and humid. This condition, together