

Watershed, the forest is principally composed of spruce, poplar, white birch, and cedar. It is notable however, that in all this portion of the Hudson's Bay territories, the spruce is gradually giving place to the poplar, which no doubt indicates some change, local or general, on which it would be useless here to speculate. The woods there are also very dense, and vary in weight of growth according to the quality and nature of the soil, which, although generally light is of fair quality, especially that resting on the limestone foundation referred to. As a general rule the "height of land" and vicinity, as well as south of it, particularly in the Lake Superior region, contain land of indifferent, although varied quality. This is especially the case in the Abbitibbie district, which rests on a species of light blue clay, which when dried, resembles common pipe-clay, and which imparts a white color to its lake and river for 300 miles to the sea. I found also that this clay in minute drift, forms the sub-strata of the alluvial islands (about 27 in number) dotting the mouth of the Moose river, and, which the flow and ebb of the tide gives an excellent opportunity of observing. Above "the Mattawa," it is also perceivable to some slight extent in the banks of the Moose river, but disappears about 45 miles from the sea, and about 35 miles below the north-eastern margin of the primary formation, or, what appears to be the ancient sea wall.

The principal rivers north of the great Watershed are shallow, and not available for heavy craft. The Moose and Abbitibbie rivers, however, admit of navigation by the Hudson's Bay Company's boats, of about 10 tons, for nearly 100 miles up, but only during spring, and sometimes up till the 1st of July. The Abbitibbie is remarkable for the regularity of its width, and also for the singularly definite nature of its traverse angles, as well as for the uniform length of its traverse course while its descent is characterized by a series of rapids, (34 in number) the last and most dangerous of which occurs at its junction with the Moose river. On the other hand, the Moose is comparatively straight, but irregular in its width for sixty miles from the sea, and has no portage for 120 miles up, being a gradual current; after which it becomes in most places, up to the line of the Canadian Pacific Railroad survey very serpentine. For variety of rock especially below New Brunswick House, both at portages and in drift, it surpasses anything conceivable. Its quartz is pure and almost endless in quantity, containing apparent traces of gold, copper, &c., while galena is to be found in its "south branch." There are also what appears to me indications of petroleum on its western side for about 80 miles southwards from tide mark; this locality also abounds with ferruginous and brackish springs.

Following up the Moose river to Lat. $48^{\circ} 44' 30''$ N., where it is crossed by the Pacific Railroad survey now in progress, the general country is very regular and offers every facility for *roads* and *railroads*; immediately south of this, however, the undulations peculiar to the "height of land" are in some places still perceptible. Advancing southwards towards Lake Superior, the landscape becomes thickly interspersed with rock, mountain, and lake, till in descending the Michipicoton river, primary rock and a barren sandy soil are met with.