

inate, but many extensive patches of white pine are met with on either side. The pine is not of large size, but quite large enough for handling with facility. Measurements were made of several sticks, which ranged from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference at the butt. From a height on the western side of the Steady an unbroken vista of dense heavy forest extends eastward and westward, up and down the river valley, and away north toward the main Exploits River, as far as the country is visible. Frequent patches of interval land of superior quality fringe the shores of the Steady, and considerable areas of similar land, admirably adapted for hay growing, were found along the courses of the smaller tributaries, flowing into the steady, or river, below.

In descending Noel Paul's River to the Exploits proper, the country improves at every turn, and much fine land and timber were observed on both sides of the stream. The spruce and fir were particularly fine, many of the former sticks suitable for schooners' spars, were seen close to the bank. White birch is quite abundant, tamarack of good size is scattered throughout the forest, and aspen becomes tolerably plentiful on the lower reaches of the river. The stream is a fine one for driving logs, when sufficiently supplied with water in spring and autumn. The land over the greater part of the valley of Noel Paul's River partakes of the same character as that of the main Exploits valley, frequently described in former reports, especially those of 1871, 1875 and 1882. It consists of a sandy loam, underlaid generally by a gravelly subsoil. The decomposed vegetable matter derived from the dense forest, the decay of ages, intermixed with this loam, gives it a very fertile character, which is amply attested by the indigenous forest growth everywhere. The interval lands, in particular, which are often of considerable extent, are composed of very superior soils, containing less sand and much more vegetable matter. They are, in fact, a dark rich mud, (not peat), only requiring a judicious system of drainage to render them some of the best hay-growing lands in the Island. Hundreds of acres of such land were met with during the progress of the survey last fall. Of course until such time as access is afforded to this remote region by means of roads or a railway, these must remain in abeyance. It is useless to talk of utilizing lands situated 100 miles from the sea coast, without such means of access, even were they composed of the richest soil on the globe.