

Here again the amount of land suited to agricultural use is negligible, though settlers are found scattered as far north as Wa Bos township.

SUMMARY

The whole territory south of the Clay Belt lying between the Timagami and Nipigon reserves is one pre-eminently suited for creating a forest reserve to be managed on forestry principles, the northern part for its spruce and jack pine, the southern part for the white pine reproduction. Of the forest reservations in existence, Timagami (5,000 square miles) and Mississaga (3,000 square miles) have been set aside to conserve the white pine, and Nipigon (7,300 square miles) mainly on account of the spruce pulpwood. The agricultural areas within this whole territory are practically negligible, the land being absolute forest soil; and settlement so far very slight. Outside of the townships lying between Sudbury and the Sault, the 81 townships along the Algoma Central, 96 square miles along the Black river near Heron bay, and some 3,000 square miles of the headwaters of the Spanish river practically all is unlicensed. The land is fit only for growing trees, and while it may be claimed that there are vast quantities of spruce north of the Height of Land the commercial quantity is largely on agricultural soil from which it will be removed once and for all. The jack pine is needed for tie timber and one is impressed with its persistence in spite of fires throughout the whole northern portion. If the fire devastation were once stopped, the future of the region is assured. The region directly north and east of Sudbury was not examined but it is known to be of the same general type of white pine country. South of the Timagami reserve are some townships tributary to the Sturgeon river and still in the Crown, estimated to contain two billion feet of white pine. For a rational use of the soil the region from Mattawa west to Nipigon, with the southern boundary of the Clay belt running from the Porcupine district to Nipigon reserve as northern limit should be made into a reserve and adequate expenditure for fire protection made. All representative men encountered on this trip without exception agreed that this region should be placed in reserve for timber growing. It will, however, in all probability be necessary and desirable to make a further and detailed examination with a view to securing specific information as to just what sections should be first considered in connection with the plan of permanent reservation suggested herein.