

At twenty miles from Three Rivers, and from thence to the Grand Piles, nearly twenty miles further, the soil is excellent. It has, generally speaking, a clay foundation, with nearly a foot of black earth over it, made from decomposed leaves, &c., which is easily worked and very productive. The general character of this portion of the valley is level, but much tessellated with deep gullies, which offers excellent facilities for drainage. During the past twenty years I have travelled much through the wilderness of Canada, upon the Ottawa and other places, and I have never seen so large a block of really good land in any unsettled portion of Canada.

From the Grand Piles upwards the country is very uneven and mountainous, but with many valleys generally fertile.

Ques. 3. Is the climate severe as compared with Quebec?—The climate must be about the same as at Quebec. Late crops are sometimes injured by early frosts; but this difficulty is disappearing gradually, to a certain extent, as the country becomes opened.

Ques. 4. What are the prevailing kinds of timber? State what kinds prevail in the different localities?—The *sandy* section is covered generally with scrubby pine and balsam fir; the *high* section with beech, maple, spruce; the good section with elm, yellow birch, maple, basswood and large pine; the mountainous section with pine, spruce, white birch, balsam and elm; ash and yellow birch in the valleys.

Ques. 5. What kinds of grain and other crops are cultivated? and with what success?—All kinds of grain and other crops that are cultivated in Canada, are raised here with success. The crops predominate in the following order:—potatoes, oats, wheat, rye, buckwheat and barley. In the light section, rye, buckwheat and barley take precedence of wheat.

Ques. 6. Are the soil and climate well adapted for agricultural purposes generally?—They are.

Ques. 7. Can fruits be successfully cultivated? And what kinds?—I do not know. Plums are the only fruit I have seen tried, and they do well. Wild fruit, such as strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, &c., is very abundant.

Ques. 8. What description of settlers would be most suitable for your part of the country? Agriculturists, mechanics, farm or domestic servants?—Agriculturists.

Ques. 9. Could temporary employment be obtained for emigrants? and what would be the remuneration?—Unless some public works are proceeded with, temporary employment for emigrants will be somewhat limited. Emigrants until they have been sometime in the country, and have learned to use the axe, are not much required by the lumbermen. Labour can be obtained here for from \$8 to \$12 per month.

Ques. 10. Are there any fisheries? What kind? Are they productive?—Most of our many Lakes—inland—abound with trout, bass, pickerel or other fish; but I am not aware of any parties who look exclusively to this source for a livelihood.

Ques. 11. Are lumbering operations carried on? What description of lumber is manufactured? to what extent?—There are fourteen lumbering establishments at work upon the St. Maurice this year. They will likely make about 100,000 white pine saw logs for cutting into deal, and about 20,000 pieces of square timber—white and red pine, but mostly white—for the Quebec market.

HENRY R. SYMMES,
Superintendent St. Maurice Works.

To the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Emigration.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to submit my replies to a series of questions your Clerk sent me, pertaining to the country between the Ottawa and Georgian Bay.

Ans. to Ques. 1. I reside in the Township of Nepean near the City of Ottawa, which is between the River Ottawa and the Georgian Bay, and I think that I know the country better than any other man except an Indian, and his knowledge must be more local than mine.

Ans. to Ques. 2. The general character of the soil is fertile, although somewhat rough. It is not so good as the country between Belleville and Toronto, but it is better than that between Brockville and the former place.