



THE GUARANTEE OF PROSPERITY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Northern Ontario

A Vast New Land

IT seems like a romance or a fairy tale to say that the people of Ontario possess a new land within its boundaries that is fully four times the size of Old Ontario and far larger than Great Britain, or France, or Germany. That new land—new in having been recently known and begun to be settled—is now known as Northern Ontario, and is divided into eight great districts—Nipissing, Timiskaming, Sudbury, Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, Kenora and Patricia. It is 330,000 square miles in extent, and is 121,000 square miles larger than the largest of the three old countries named. So near to us, it is not prized as its worth demands. Later than the prairie in advertisement, this fact has carried the vision of homeseekers much more toward the treeless West than the tree-covered North. Yet both are great in rich extensive land. And the intending settler should not take a half view, but consider whether it is not worth while to investigate the merits of territory nearer hand.

Millions of Virgin Acres

IT should not be a great surprise that out of so vast an area there are, say, twenty million acres of agricultural land, most of which is good. There is what is called a Clay Belt, which extends westerly from the interprovincial boundary between Quebec and Ontario for over 400 miles, and which varies in depth, north and south, from 25 to 100 miles and more. The Clay Belt proper lies north of the height of land, and is an area of at least sixteen million acres of level or undulating ground. The soil, a rich clay or clay loam, is similar to that section of Timiskaming south of the height of land, where agricultural results have been excellent, and it is probably better than the level clay stretches of fine farming land in Manitoba. Sandy and gravelly ridges and areas appear in various places, but from the point of view of the general needs of the settler these have their own special advantages in affording material for concrete construction and road improvement. It is safe to say that from 65 to 75 per cent. of the Clay Belt is good farm land, and that this percentage will be considerably increased by comprehensive drainage, which the rivers will aid in making easy. Aside from its immense resources in timber, mineral, water-power, fish, game, and scenery, Northern Ontario contains one of the greatest expanse of fertile territory in the world.

The Soil as Settlers Find It

ON the subject of soil the great majority of these same settlers emphatically affirm that it is good, and no one is unqualifiedly against it. Some of them use such strong expressions as—“Yes, whether it be in the clay loam or sandy areas, excellent crops are harvested, each soil produces its own individual crops to the best advantage;” “we have all kinds of soil—heavy clay loam and sandy loam—which cannot be excelled in any part of the Province;” “no better in the Dominion;” “will produce anything from No. 1 wheat to strawberries.”

What the Settlers Think of Bush Life

THE great preponderance of their expressed preference lies on the side of the Bush. The following are some of their vigorous words: “Yes, I had two years on the prairie and I would not return, one reason is we can get out every day in the winter;” “you have plenty of firewood and wood for repairing machinery, fence posts, lumber for building, etc.,” “no blizzards in winter, no windstorms in summer, there is shelter for stock, and good water;” “we have better homes and not so great loss with frost and hail;” “there are beauties beyond description in the spring, only imagined on the long, unbroken prairie;” “it has many advantages—scenery, shelter, fuel, lumber, pine atmosphere, delightful walks, shaded;” “there is more employment in the winter months;” “one can manage with the bush life without capital better than in the prairie.”

Markets and Dairying

THERE is nothing the settler produces in the north country but what finds a ready market. The great mining districts to the south absorb it all and at good prices—hay, grain, butter, eggs, pork—everything he produces. This market will be ever developing with the mining activities, so that for years to come a steady market is assured. Dairying promises to be one of the big industries of this new land. Clover and other crops—oats, wheat, peas, barley and all produce in abundance. Alsike grows almost as a weed. This insures abundance of pasturage for summer feeding. During the coming summer, the Provincial Department of Agriculture is erecting a splendid creamery at New Liskeard as an outlet for this rapidly developing industry. These new homes in the great Northland of Ontario are only 300 or 400 miles north of the city of Toronto. If you are ambitious for a home of your own, one of them can be yours for the asking and the work of doing settler's duty.

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