

raising. It is already used by the Hudson's Bay Company for that purpose, and they have shown that sheep and cattle can be reared there successfully."

Again he says in respect to the timber :

"On the head waters of the Moose River, white pine is abundant and of good size. Red pine also exists and extends rather further north than the white. Then there is 'Jack pine' or 'cypress,' or more properly the Banksian pine, which, though not a timber tree in its southern extension, becomes so in the northern region, which is its home. In the Albany region I have seen large groves of this tree, quite different from the ordinary scrubby variety."

As to climate he says :

"In regard to the climate for agriculture, the country that I have spoken of, south and south-west of James' Bay, lies in the latitude of Cornwall and Devonshire, in England, and southward of that, it is in the same latitude as the northerly parts of France; and while these countries enjoy exceptionally favourable conditions, there is no peculiarity of climate that would make the district I have referred to, worse than the average of the face of the earth in those latitudes, and, therefore, I think it is likely to be of value for agriculture, as far as climate is concerned."

As to the dates of the opening of the river he remarks as follows :—

"When I was at Martin's Falls, on the Albany, I collected the dates of the opening and closing of the Albany River for about forty years preceding my visit, and since that I have obtained the dates for over ten years, so I have an exact record of the opening and closing of the Albany for fifty years, and the average time that it is open is fully six months."

In respect to the fishery resources of the Hudson's Bay he says :

"In regard to the whale fishery, the large whales are confined principally to the north-west part of the Bay. The Americans from New Bedford and New London have resorted to the north-west part of the Bay to fish whales for twenty years or upwards, and have generally been very successful. From one to three or four or five vessels go every year, and according to the Report of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries, the returns have been very large."

Then, in answer to the question, "What is the liability to summer frosts in the country around Hudson's Bay?" he says :

"In the larger area of agricultural land south and south-west of James' Bay, I think not very great. In 1877, on my homeward journey, I left Moose Factory on the 1st October, and at that time all the tender plants—the tobacco plant, castor oil, bean, common beans, cucumbers, balsams and other tender plants, were perfectly green, standing in the open air, and probably remained so for some time after I left, as we had no frost. And at the posts of the Hudson Bay Company, inland, they are not often troubled with early autumn frosts. I think the sowing is done on an average at the same time as in corresponding latitudes in Lower Canada."

Again, speaking of iron ore, he says :

"Iron ore is very abundant on the east coast of Hudson's Bay and on the islands northward from Cape Jones. At the commencement of Hudson's Bay proper, there is an inexhaustible quantity of rich and valuable ore—valuable from the fact, that it contains a great amount of carbonate of manganese, making it available for the manufacture of Bessemer steel."

A country with all these resources, with forests and iron ore and lying alongside a great highway, easy of access, surely cannot be called a barren country; and yet not many years ago, not a hundred years ago, an hon. member of this House said :

"That railway north of Lake Superior runs for 700 or 800 or 1,000 miles through the most inhospitable country on the face of the globe—I do not speak now of Manitoba, but north of Lake Superior, from Calderau even to Winnipeg. It is questionable in my mind whether there are 10,000 acres adapted for settlement along the whole line of the route, and, if you carry on a railway through a country not adapted for settlement, it strikes me forcibly it will be carried on with a very large expense to the country, and will not be remunerative to the contractors. Unless there is some way-freight for a railway, it is utterly impossible for it to be a paying concern."

This wholesale denunciation of an immense region like that described, has a every bad effect when it comes from such a high authority as this did. Sometimes hon. gentlemen in their argument, to carry out a particular view, express themselves without reflection as to the character of a country. I do not know whether that hon. gentleman did so or not, but he spoke as if he did, because I believe he is very much better informed. It is a great pity that such reports

should go abroad about a very extensive portion of the country. From the ascertained sources of the Moose at Lake Abitibi to the source of its westerly branch north of Lake Superior, the distance is 350 miles, giving over 30,000 square miles of territory on the waters of the Moose where the soil is in great part very good—that is a country as large as Scotland or Ireland—and containing, according to the estimate which I have obtained, upwards of 20,000,000 acres of very fair land. I may be permitted to read from a paper which I have obtained from an officer of the Government appointed to explore that country—some information furnished by Professor Bell. He says :

"As to the position and extent of this basin (of the Moose) which is one of the largest and most important drainage areas in the Dominion. It lies between the parallels of 47° and 51° north latitude and 78° and 85½° west longitude. Its outline is approximately circular, measuring 330 miles from east to west, or as far as from Toronto to Montreal, by 300 miles from north to south. As much misapprehension exists in regard to its climate, etc., I may here compare its general position as to latitude with European countries with which we are more familiar. Its most northern parts correspond with the extreme south of England, while the bulk of it is in the latitudes of the northern parts of France, the southern parts of Germany, the central parts of Austria and the great wheat districts of Southern Russia. It is far removed from the cooling influence of the Arctic current of the Atlantic coast and may be considered to enjoy an average climate for its latitude as compared with the rest of the world. As might have been expected, wheat ripens well in this district as we know from the testimony of those who have tried it, while Indian corn comes to maturity in the southern parts of it. Timothy and all other kinds of hay as well as root crops and vegetables thrive remarkably well. The region seems to be admirably adapted for stock raising and dairy produce. The abundance of wood and the purest of water are important considerations."

"As to soil, elevation, etc., the greater part of the region may be described as a tolerably level plateau with an elevation of less than 1,000 feet above the sea. The southern part is more broken than the northern, and the whole area has a gentle slope towards the north."

"The Moose River has upwards of a dozen principal branches, rising near the height of land, flowing often for long distances parallel to each other, but gradually converging towards the head of James' Bay. The western branches unite to form the Moose River proper, which is only about 40 miles in length, and this receives the eastern branches on its way to the sea."

Dr. Bell goes on to say :

"The late Walter McDuat—a thoroughly reliable authority—in speaking of the south-eastern part of the region in question, says in his Geological Report for 1872: 'The whole region, extending northward from the mouth of the Montreal River, which is about 30 miles south of the head of Lake Temiscamingue, may be pretty correctly described as a level clay plain, with a great number of rocky hills and ridges protruding through it. * * * The height of the clay appears to be pretty uniform throughout the whole region. * * * Taking the mean of all the heights * * * we find that the height of the clay plain above the sea level is about 900 feet. * * * Lake Abitibi is surrounded on all sides by level clay land. * * * To the north and especially the north-westward, the clay level seems almost unbroken and it is well known that it extends in this direction to the shores of Hudson Bay. Several acres of this clay soil are cultivated at the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Abitibi and with satisfactory results. The only crop grown at present is potatoes; but I was informed by the man who has charge of the farming operations (a French Canadian, who has been more than thirty years in Abitibi, but was brought up as a farmer near Sorel, in the Province of Quebec), that several other crops, including wheat, had been tried in former years, and with such results that he is inclined to insist that all the ordinary cereals can be cultivated as successfully at Abitibi as on the St. Lawrence. Such an opinion from a man who has been for so many years practically engaged in the cultivation of the soil, is worth recording and ought to be reliable. Indian corn is grown at more than one locality near the head of Lake Temiscamingue, and is said to ripen well. I am able, personally, to testify to this, as I was shown some good ripe ears which had been grown during the summer of 1872, on the farm of Mr. Angus McBride, at the head of the lake.' Similar testimony might be quoted from the reports of Mr. E. E. Borrow, who has travelled much through the country drained by the various branches of the Moose River."

"In various parts of the district there is a prospect for the discovery of several of the more valuable metals. It is especially the case towards the south-east side; while in the northern part, I have found large deposits of iron ore, gypsum and lignite. So little intelligent exploration for mines has yet been done in the vast region northward of the great lakes, that we can hardly form any idea of the rich mineral resources which lie dormant in this part of the Dominion. I am convinced from what I have seen, that there is nothing in the climate of this region which would prevent it being successfully farmed."

A country with all these resources cannot be called a barren country. In the forests at Lake Abitibi there are pines