

rendering the people of Ontario to a considerable extent independent of foreign sources for their supply of this indispensable necessary of life.

In the course of my explorations particular attention has been paid to the "timber resources" of this territory, and observations on this important subject will be found to occupy a prominent place in my reports. The general conclusions arrived at are:—

That east of the 84th meridian of longitude the climate, not only admits, but is favourable to the growth of red and white pine of large size and good quality in this territory as far north as the 49th parallel of latitude.

That situated between the Height of Land and the 49th parallel, and between the 84th meridian and our eastern boundary, or say between the Missinaibi and Abitibi Rivers is a region embracing some six or seven million acres of this territory within which much of the soil is also more or less perfectly adapted to the growth of pine.

That, although bush-fires have within the last fifty years swept over the greater part of this region, the charred remains in many instances afford ample testimony to the fact that the former forests were composed largely of pine; and that the ridges and islands which have escaped these modern fires still bear considerable numbers of fine red and white pine.

That irrespective altogether of the value of the pine now on the ground, the *prospective* value of the timber which seven million acres of good forest land may be capable of producing by the unaided efforts of Nature alone, should be fairly taken into account, for if not to ourselves such a forest, more than royal in its dimensions, will surely prove a valuable legacy to posterity.

It will have been seen by those who have perused the narrative of my journeyings and explorations, that spruce, tamarac, canoe-birch, and aspen-poplar are found all over the territory. The spruce and tamarac frequently attain a good size and may come to be valuable for export. The aspen is rapidly assuming importance as affording material (pulp) well suited for the manufacture of some kinds of paper. It may well be that before long the aggregate value of these inferior kinds of timber of which there are such vast quantities, may greatly exceed that of the red and white pine, the growth of which is confined, as will have been seen, to narrower limits. The willow is found in every part of this territory growing luxuriantly. Whether the variety so useful for basket making could be successfully cultivated remains to be seen, but in my opinion it would succeed admirably on the river bottoms.

In conclusion, I have again to acknowledge the many obligations I am under for assistance rendered, and numerous acts of kindness shown by James L. Cotter, Esq., W. K. Broughton, Esq., and Dr. Haydon, at Moose Factory; Mr. Ray at Matawagamingue, and Mr. Thomas Moore at Flying Post; also by M. Matheson, Esq., in charge of the Hon. Hudson Bay Company's Post at Lacloche, as well as by Mr. Ross of Whitefish Lake, and Mr. Dyke of Mississagua. But for the friendly disposition of the Hon. Hudson Bay Company and its officers, and the assistance they have afforded me, I could not have made the explorations which form the subject of this and previous reports.

Respectfully submitted.

E. B. BORRON,  
*Stipendiary Magistrate.*