

brings to a student like myself are many, and it requires the aid of a committee both able and conscientious to overcome them. Knowing the members of the executive personally and that they are indeed competent, I feel sure of success in our endeavors. But success does not come from the exertions of the committee alone; it requires your own hearty co-operation, which I hope you will give by taking an active interest in all we do.

It is with sadness that I must here record the death of one of our honorary members—Col. Sir Căsimir Gzowski, A.D.C., M. Inst. C.E., M. Can. Soc. C. E.,—who has been a good friend to the Society. As one of the leaders in the engineering profession, he was a much valued member and his loss will be felt deeply.

The chief subject of my address this afternoon is a description of the northern lands in the Province of Ontario, which I traversed this summer along a line of exploration running in a northerly direction to James Bay—the south coast of which is the extreme northern boundary of the Province. It is especially apropos since the projected railway to James Bay has awakened a great interest in this the largest part of Ontario—an immense area about which very little has hitherto been known. The old idea of it being a cold bleak waste is far from correct. It is true that there the summer is shorter and the winter as severe as the latitude calls for, but for all this the small colony of Moose Factory on James Bay have long enough season to grow their own vegetables and also pasturage for over a hundred head of cattle.

The passage up the Ottawa and Montreal rivers was made hurriedly, and of this part of the country only a general description can be given. The district in the vicinity of Lake Temiscamingue, already known to possess many good agricultural areas, is becoming yearly more settled. The soil is chiefly a rich clay in excellent condition for production. It is hilly and covered with spruce, Jack and red pine and birch, the first predominating. The rise to the watershed being comparatively sudden, has produced rivers swift and full of rapids and falls. In the 75 miles of the Montreal River from the mouth on Lake Temiscamingue to the Great Northern Bend, near which is Fort Matachewan, there are several French-Canadians and half-breeds' log huts. The inhabitants have made use of the fertility of the soil by putting small areas under cultivation. For the whole length of the river the banks are thickly covered with good spruce, which grows so