

THE NIPIGON TIMBER RESERVE.

By Order in Council, dated the 7th June, 1905, the Government of the Province of Ontario, has set apart the Nipigon Timber Reserve, surrounding Lake Nipigon, north of Lake Superior, as shown on the sketch on another page and described as follows:—

“Commencing at the southeast angle of the Township of Ledger, east of the Nipigon River in the District of Thunder Bay, thence due east astronomically twenty-two miles, thence due north astronomically ninety-eight miles, thence due west astronomically seventy-three miles, thence due south astronomically ninety-eight miles, thence due east astronomically to the southwest angle of the Township of Purdom, thence due east astronomically along the south boundary of the Township of Purdom, and along the south boundary of the Township of Ledger, a distance of fifty-one miles in all, to the place of beginning, containing by admeasurement seven thousand one hundred and fifty-four square miles.”

There are of course the usual exceptions of lands already patented, Indian reserves, &c. The total area of the reserve, including water, is about four and a half million acres.

The country surrounding Lake Nipigon and now included in the reserve is mostly of Laurentian or Huronian rock formation and except in the western portion of the reserve, has but few tracts of good agricultural land, these, where they occur, being situated along the river valleys. It is not a district that can ever support an agricultural community in large numbers, although where the land is suitable it is possible to raise crops of some value. At the Hudson Bay posts and the missions, efforts in this direction have been made with success, and as the climate is stated to be similiar to that at Lake Temiscaming, there seems no reason for doubt on the question. Barley, potatoes and other vegetables and small fruits ripen readily at Nipigon House. The Nipigon district obtrudes on the line of the great northern clay