

quarter of the areas of the foregoing three sections is arable land fit for settlement, and the remainder can be profitable only as timber forests for ever.

Before proceeding further westward it may be proper to take a glance at the part of the province of Quebec, south of the St. Lawrence, from Gaspé inclusively upwards. The area of which is about 34,200 superficial miles.

Area of
Quebec,
south of the
St. Lawrence,
more suitable
for cultiva-
tion.

Notwithstanding that it is traversed by the Great Shikshak or Notre Dame Range, broken in groups of varied character and elevation, it is well known that fully three quarters of its area, owing to its more favourable geological formation and character of surface, is more or less suitable for successful cultivation.

Pine in
Gaspé.

Even in the district of Gaspé, barley much exceeding in weight and (as found on careful analysis completely made) containing 10 per cent. more saccharine matter than barley grown in the district of Montreal could be cultivated as profitably as wheat in the interior of the province. Pine grows well in the peninsula of Gaspé, including the county of Bonaventure; but, owing to the general prevalence in many parts of a heavy growth of brown birch and maple, and other hardwood trees pine was originally less abundant, and is now scarce, much of it having been cut away; but large brown birch is abundant and the growth of cedar in Gaspé is unequalled in size and quality. I measured one over 15 feet in circumference, and it was straight and without a branch for about 40 feet. Excellent sound cedar is abundant, and is the best wood for building of the fishing boats of the coast, owing to its lightness and durability; and brown birch is increasing in value now that walnut has become scarce.

Cedar and
hardwood
large and
sound.

River
Restigouche.
Pine much
cut away.
Eastern
townships
and Me-
gantic.

Crown
timber cut in
the districts
south of the
St. Lawrence,
1856 to
1881.

Westward the pine on the tributaries of the Restigouche has been very much cut away for square timber. The rivers falling into the St. Lawrence, though long lumbered upon for saw logs, still yield a considerable proportion of pine. As the populous old settlements of the Seigniories on the St. Lawrence, the Yamaska, and the Richelieu, and of the eastern townships and Megantic, and the increasing new settlements behind them, occupy the chief part of the country west of the Chaudière Valley, there is but little timber cut on Crown lands there, and much of what remains will be required for local consumption. In the whole of the part of the province of Quebec south of the St. Lawrence the timber and saw logs cut upon Crown lands, from 1856 to 1881 inclusively are as follows, viz.:

Of square timber, 52,162 pieces of white pine, 3,828 pieces of red pine, and 102,788 pieces of all other woods. Of saw logs, pine, 1,563,353 pieces, and of spruce pine, 6,326,346, of which respectively, of squared white pine during the first 15 years 44,530 pieces and 7,632 during the last ten years; and of other woods 48,151 pieces in the first 15 years and 54,635 pieces during the last ten years. Of pine saw logs 952,030 pieces in the first 15 years and 611,323 pieces in the last ten years. Of spruce saw logs 2,793,894 pieces in the first 15 and in the last 10 years 3,532,452 pieces.

Area under
timber
licenses.

The extent now under license from the Crown to cut timber in this division of the province is only 7,575 square miles, and the total revenue from timber and saw logs, from 1856 to 1881 inclusively, is \$1,467,974 $\frac{5}{100}$.

Spruce
timber still
abundant.

As much of this south division is already settled country, or rapidly becoming so, and the moderate proportion of the pine it contained originally is largely cut away, it cannot continue long to yield any considerable supply. But as spruce is of quick growth, besides being still abundant, the annual yield of it may be continued for many years with little diminution, and the supply of birch be much increased with the probable increase of demand.

UPPER OTTAWA TERRITORIES.

Reverting to the north side of the St. Lawrence, the Upper Ottawa territory remains to be considered. As the whole of it for 25 years previous to confederation was included in one Crown timber agency, under the same system of management and under one common revenue accounts, till divided between Quebec and Ontario by their old boundary, the Ottawa, on confederation, as two separate agencies, but under my charge as previously and as they have been jointly and severally for upwards of 30 years, it may be appropriate, in relation to forestry as the general subject of this memorandum, to take a general view of the whole as a forest country of chief importance, while carefully distinguishing the yield of timber from each, and the revenue therefrom, as closely as practicable through periods of mixed account and early obscurity that required much labour in investigation for results of little value.

The River Ottawa as surveyed is about 790 miles in length from its principal mouth at Bout de l'Isle below Montreal to the source of its east branch, but the source of its north branch reported by fur traders to be the main stream may, when ascertained by