

sional bottom lands, but there is no extent of them. The witness did not think there is an agricultural country in that eastern district. It is entirely different from the country he had been previously speaking of.

Upon the Nelson river wheat has been grown successfully at Norway House, and also at Cross lake. Of course, he could see that they grow no grain at any of their posts nowadays. In the old days they grew it and ground it in hand mills. Witness saw potatoes that were grown about 50 miles north of the Pas. There were quite showy potatoes, great large fellows like those you see exhibited in fairs—tremendously large, grown on practically new land, and they had a very large crop of them. Mr. McInnes did not eat any of them. The Nelson has its source within forty miles of the Rockies.

There are no settlers in the Nelson district. The Indians, however, grow potatoes at several points, even in the northern part of it, as far north as Nelson House, about latitude 55. On July 11, when the witness arrived at Nelson House, the Indian potatoes had vines about eleven inches high, and were almost ready to flower. When he got out on September 6 to the Saskatchewan, at the Hudson bay post there, at the Pas, Indian corn was very well headed out, with very large fine ears quite ready for table use, and there was no frost until September 29. He knew that because he stayed there until then.

With eighteen hours of the day light, and no frost in the summer, vegetation is rapid. In a country where you can ripen Indian corn you can grow practically anything.

Mr. McInnes drew the attention of the committee to the fact that there is a very large area immediately adjoining the Saskatchewan river from a little this side of Prince Albert, clear down to the mouth of the river of very swampy land. In fact for a long time they thought they could not build a railway in to the Pas on that account. It occurred to Mr. McInnes going down that stretch of country that the only thing that has prevented the Saskatchewan draining this area is the occurrence at the mouth of the Saskatchewan of what is known as 'the Grand Rapids,' with a fall of 100 feet. This fall is in length a distance of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles or thereabouts, and Mr. McInnes suggested that there is a possibility that these marshes might be done away with by blasting out the rock, thus increasing the speed of the river and lowering the basin of the Saskatchewan and draining that swampy country. It would bring into cultivation a great many thousand square miles of as fine land as could possibly be found. It is all alluvial land of the best possible character.

FORESTRY.

The western part of Keewatin has evidently from all accounts been a country of good timber generally, but unfortunately it has been almost all burned over, and burned over a good many times, so that at the present time the only areas of good timber that the witness knew of are the area north of Moose lake, the area west of Clearwater lake, and the area between Cormorant and Yarnstone lakes. He made cross sections in that country several times, and he found white spruce, and the largest tree he found was 30 inches in diameter. That was the largest tree. He would say most of those trees make three 14 foot logs because they are growing thickly, and it is a regular white spruce timber limit. There are a great many from 10 inches up to 23 inches. That is an area about six miles long by two or three wide, and going through that there are areas of swamp. He cross sectioned through it and would come to a quarter of a mile of good trees, and then perhaps half a mile of swamp land with black spruce, and half a mile of good trees right across. North of that point there are only a few isolated areas of timber that had escaped the fire. On the islands and lakes there are pretty good timbers, and on some little peninsulas that are nearly cut off; otherwise it has all been burnt.