

Above the River Croche the country has not been minutely examined with a view to colonization, as an ample field is found before reaching it.

The westerly part of the territory has been likewise thoroughly explored, and the rivers surveyed. Continuing to the north from the township of Shawenegan, the district drained by the river of that name, and the Riviere du Loup, is broken and divided by high ridges of good hard-wood land; and this characteristic prevails to the height of land separating the waters just mentioned from those which flow into the Matawin.

Sufficient evidence of the suitableness of this land for settling purposes is had in the fact, that an extent of fourteen miles of new road opened here by the Department, two years ago, through the wilderness, is now continuously occupied on both sides by thrifty settlers, whilst the new road to the "Piles," constructed also by the Department during the last season, is already occupied throughout its entire length. This settlement sprung up as fast as the road was opened. The lumbermen have cleared up farms at various points upon the St. Maurice between the "Piles" and the mouth of the Matawin, and along this latter river as high as the Pine Lake, where there is a large establishment belonging to the Messrs. Gilmour & Co., of Quebec.

The avidity with which lands on the St. Maurice are sought so soon as opened to the public, proves that they are now known to be of a good quality.

A range of high rocky lands, forming a continuous chain about sixty miles in length, divides the waters flowing into the Matawin and Vermillion Rivers; and along the numerous feeders of these rivers good land is to be found. A large tract in this district has unfortunately been laid waste by extensive fires, which have consumed even the soil upon the dryer tracts—the bare and whitened rocks testifying to the havoc that has been made.

The Matawin, Vermillion, Rat River, Flamand, Riviere du Milieu, and Riviere au Lac Clair, all flow through a region affording more or less of arable land.

The settlements that have been formed in the St. Maurice Territory during the last five or six years are in Brandon, Peterborough, Caxton, Shawenegan, rear of Cap de la Madelaine, Riviere des Envies (in Batis-can), Montauban, Colbert, and Roemont. All of these are flourishing and steadily increasing, the general quality of the land not differing essentially from the Eastern Townships south of the St. Lawrence.

The marked features in the physical geography of the Territory consist in the numerous large rivers and lakes by which it is watered, the extensive interval or alluvial lands existing on these rivers and lakes, the wide belts of pine (chiefly white pine) timber everywhere found, the extensive beds of bog or swamp ore of superior quality, and the absence of any elevations which might properly be termed mountains, after passing the Laurentide range—the high lands being so called only from their peculiar form and character. as their elevations would merely entitle them to be termed high ranges or cliffs.

The Rat River farms are situated sixty-two and a-half miles in a straight line nearly due north from Three Rivers, in latitude $47^{\circ} 13'$ N.; and longitude $72^{\circ} 56'$ W., at an elevation of about 320 feet above the sea. The post of