

the people in the southern country pooh-pooled the idea. They said they had been up at the head of the lake and knew there was not a foot of good land there. But there is a magnificent stretch of country there, and it extends westward along the Churchill. These lands north of Lake Winnipeg are clay lands, an extension of the same basin as the Manitoba clays.

As to the country immediately north of Lake Athabaska it could not be considered as being within the arable area. The arable belt, however, as you go west to the Athabaska river, widens enormously. As to that, of course, witness could not speak from his own personal knowledge of the country. He spoke generally of the vast country west of the Athabaska river until you get to the Peace river country, and there is certainly a large tract of agricultural land there. However, one or another may differ about the value of any particular part of that country. In the country as you go west into the Peace river region, there is certainly a large area of good land that the witness would not attempt to confine inside of such a belt as he had been speaking of.

#### FORESTRY.

In speaking of the forests of the country north of the Saskatchewan, the witness explained he would have to divide the country in very much the same belts as for agriculture, because agriculture and forests were very closely connected. Agriculture has to be very much governed by the forest growth. Far in the north there is a tract of country he had already outlined that has no trees on it: then a belt of country from one to two hundred miles in width with small banksian pine, spruce, larch, poplar and some white birch. He would not consider any of those woods valuable for timber purposes, except locally. They would serve for pulp wood, but the growth is not thick. Still in a considerable area, there might, of course, be a large quantity of timber for pulp wood. In that belt the trees would average probably six inches. Occasionally you would find some a good deal larger. The poplar grows on the drier lands. It is not an indication of good land in an extremely northern country. It indicates a dry sandy soil, but further south it indicates excellent soil. The country to the south of that, the thickly wooded belt, contains a large quantity of timber, chiefly white spruce, trees up to eighteen inches in diameter. It is a wooded country with trees from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter, tall with clean trunks—good, nice timber. Of course the timber does not grow as large on high dry sandy ridges, as it grows in the valleys. Most of the timber is in that good soil in the valley bottoms, but there is more or less wood land all over. The hard wood, poplar and birch affects the higher land, and the spruce and hemlock the valleys.

#### FISHERIES AND GAME.

As to the fish supply of the country north the Saskatchewan, the lakes everywhere are well stocked with trout, and the shallower lakes with whitefish. Whether the deeper lakes have many whitefish in them or not, witness could not say. At times he could catch whitefish in them and at times he could not, but he had no doubt that all these lakes are well stocked with whitefish. He always could get abundance of fish in them. Some of the small shallower lakes contain whitefish in enormous numbers. He had seen the fins of thousands sticking up over the water, while paddling along in a canoe. As far north as Dubawnt lake (63 north latitude), the whitefish and trout were plentiful in all the streams. Mr. Tyrrell caught them in Dubawnt lake. Further northwards he did not catch any and does not know what fish there are along the shores there. The Esquimaux report that there are salmon and other fish there, but witness did not see them himself.

There are great quantities of fish. The fact is there are all the fish the lakes will hold—they are as full as the water can supply food for them.