

waterways, most of which are excellent canoe routes. Of these routes the best known and most travelled is that which follows a series of lakes to Grand lake Victoria.

AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES.

In the southeastern part of Timiskaming county where the glaciated surface of the Pre-Cambrian bedrock is almost continuously exposed, there is little or no soil suitable for agriculture except in a few very limited areas; but in the northern and western parts of the county extensive areas of post-Glacial, lacustrine clay occur, forming what is generally known as the clay belt. This belt is not continuous or uniform throughout the region, however, for here and there hills and knobs of rock and ridges of gravel and sand protrude through the clay, forming conspicuous landmarks in an otherwise plain-like surface. Within the clay belt proper, there are also numerous large, undrained muskegs in the interstream areas, where the surface of the clay is covered with peat to a depth of several feet.¹ In addition to these rocky, sandy, and swampy districts in the clay belt, there are many well drained areas of clay and these afford a good soil for the growth of potatoes, vegetables, hay, and the hardier cereals. The southern extension of the clay belt situated to the north and east of lake Timiskaming has been settled for a number of years and supports a large farming community; and at the post of the Hudson's Bay Company on lake Abitibi, potatoes, hay, and oats have been grown successfully for a number of years. Potatoes have also been grown for a number of years by the Indians living along Bell river. The thick growth of vegetation, which everywhere covers the surface of the clay belt at present, keeps the soil at a lower temperature than would otherwise be the case and with the clearing of the land the summer frosts will probably be less frequent and harmful. The provincial government of Quebec has begun the building of roads in the section of the clay belt adjoining the National Transcontinental railway and a number of settlers have already taken up land in that district.

CLIMATE.

Climatic records have been kept for the Canadian Meteorological Service for a number of years at a post of the Hudson's Bay Company on lake Abitibi, in the northern part of Timiskaming county. There are no records available from points in the central or southern parts of the county, but meteorological observations have been recorded at Haileybury which lies just outside its western boundary. The average

¹ The maximum thickness of peat observed in the cuts along the National Transcontinental railway was 10 feet.