

slopes westward, and, generally speaking, is fairly level. With regard to one comparatively small section the report states that here 2,250 square miles, or approximately, one and a half million acres of land were found to be "generally fit for agricultural purposes, the soil of which is composed of yellow and black loam." In that section the predominating timber was found to be yellow and black birch, and in the low land and swamps, cedar, ash, elm, balsam occurred most frequently. The general surface of the land to be traversed by the railway is undulating, and without mountains of any kind.

Farther west is the Abitibi region, and in describing its resources the geological report says: Minerals.—Iron, copper, magnetic iron, pyrites and steatite are reported, and inasmuch as the great Huronian belt of metaliferous rocks traverses this region, further discoveries are anticipated. Timber.—White and red pine are found over the whole region. On the north side of the height of land pine trees measure from eight to nine feet in circumference. White spruce, yellow birch, and cedar are also tolerably abundant. Poplar, canoe birch, banksian pine, elm and ash are also reported, and sugar maple and aspen. "The whole country northward, from the mouth of the Montreal River, is correctly described as a level clay plain, with rocky hills protruding here and there through it. Clay appears to be uniform throughout the whole region. Indian corn is grown in several localities near the head of Lake Temiscaming."

In regard to arable land, the report states: "The largest areas of arable land are on the Blanche and around Lake Abitibi. Several acres of this clay soil are cultivated at the Hudson Bay Company's post at Abitibi, and with satisfactory results. The only crop grown at present is potatoes; but I was informed, by the man who had charge of the farming operations (a French-Canadian who had been more than thirty years at Abitibi, but was brought up as a farmer near Sorel, in the province of Quebec), that several other crops, including wheat, had been tried in former years, and with such results that he is inclined to insist that all the ordinary cereals can be cultivated as successfully at Abitibi as on the St. Lawrence. Such an opinion from a man who has been for so many years practically engaged in the cultivation of the soil, is worth recording, and ought to be reliable."

In describing the western part of the Abitibi region, which is in the province of Ontario, the report refers to the abundance of fur-bearing animals, and speaks in particular of the rich agricultural lands. In this connection it says: "From my observation in this district, I am convinced that there are large areas of agricultural land, of excellent quality, especially in the river valleys, the soil in most cases being a clay loam, free from stones, and easily cleared. The climatic conditions also seem favourable for farming operations, and these would improve with the clearing and drainage of the land. Out of a collection of nearly 70 species of plants from the district, Professor Macoun says that there is only one that indicates a cold climate, and that was found in a peaty swamp. When it is remembered that Lake Abitibi is farther south than the Southern boundary line of Manitoba, it will be seen that there is nothing in the latitude to prevent the successful cultivation of the soil, and further, it has been practically proved the successful cultivation of the soil, and further, it has been practically proved for many years that vegetables of all kinds can be successfully grown at Abitibi post."

South herefrom is the Lake Temiscaming district, in which settlement is already far advanced, and where a considerable population is carving out for itself productive farms.

The line of the Grand Trunk Pacific will enter this extensive tract of territory known as "New Ontario," containing the recently discovered fertile "clay belt of sixteen million acres of arable land." In describing the climate and resources of northern Ontario, the report says:

The result of the exploration is that a tract of arable land has been found north of the height of land, stretching from the Quebec boundary west across the district of Nipissing, Algoma and Thunder Bay, comprising an area of about 24,500 square miles, or