

THE TEMISCAMINGUE COUNTRY.

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about the country, the timber, and the quality of the soil, but they, in most cases, had gone across their township or to the next town to see some missionary, friend, or relative who had been in the Temiscamingue and got a direct personal account of the new land. They had a better idea of areas and distances than most people of Ontario have in regard to this country, and knew that the area of the land in the Temiscamingue district marked good by the explorers was as great as the twenty-two counties of Ontario lying west of Toronto and south of Georgian Bay. They also knew that the distance from Toronto to New Liskeard, at the entrance to the district, as the crow flies, was about three hundred miles.

A good many of the men were going in with the idea that they would not come back to Southern Ontario again. Men were to be found who had half a dozen axes with them, a chest of carpenter's tools, or a blacksmith's outfit. They expected to go right in, pick out their quarter section (160 acres), and then turn their hands to whatever work they could obtain until they were able to get their first clearing done, and their first crop taken off. As some put it, "Unless it is a very different country to what we have been led to expect we will never come out again."

Another striking fact which was observable in the whole party was that not one man was being driven into New Ontario by stress of circumstances. They were all energetic, thinking men who were going to New Ontario because they believed they could better their condition, not because they had failed in old Ontario.

THEY LIKE THE TIMBER COUNTRY.

Most of the men in looking about to find what they consider the best place to make their start in life had traveled over a good deal of the country, and had seen in many instances the Western States and Manitoba. As compared with the Prairie States and provinces, New Ontario was preferred by these men because it was a timber country, a country furnishing building material, fencing and fuel; a country covered with trees which they believed could be made, by the man whose capital was chiefly his hands, to yield a dividend right from the start, in the form of pulp wood and railroad ties.

Everyone who was spoken to by The Mail and Empire correspondent stated that he expected a good hard fight for it, but that he was prepared, and was going to win. Every day, in the counties from which they came, they went out to put in a solid day's work, and at the end of the year they were not so much further ahead than at the beginning, and they hoped that by putting forth a little extra effort and by enduring some privations now they would in a few years be in the possession of resources that would effectually place them and their families beyond the reach of want.

PICKING A LOCATION.

The majority of the party did not expect to stay out longer than the time allowed on this excursion. They expected to spend all the time allowed, two weeks, in "footing it" over the country in order to select the most suitable homestead, and then, having secured their location, they expected to come back to Southern Ontario to take off the crop, wind up their affairs, and start into the north in the fall. There was a large percentage of married men, and most of them expected to start in early enough in the fall to take in their families.