That the climate is remarkably healthy, the cold in winter being not quite as severe as in most parts of the North-west, and the mean summer temperature sufficiently high to bring to maturity, in two-thirds at least of the territory, all the more important grain and root crops, if not flax, hemp, hops, and other crops of a like nature which are as yet untried.

These reports also show, that although a very large proportion indeed of the surface is covered with lakes, marshes, swamps, and particularly with "muskegs" or peat-mosses, there still remains a great quantity of land in this territory fit for settlement.

The soil is seen to present considerable diversity of character, varying in composition from stiff clay to light sandy loam; the former occurs more commonly near the coast and the latter on or near the Height of Land. The subsoil is found to consist in nearly every section of the territory of the marls, boulder clays, gravels and sands of the boulder or drift formation. That the underlying rock is fossiliferous limestone in the lower or northern part, Huronian and Laurentian in the central part, and Laurentian only on the Height of Land, excepting near our eastern boundary where rocks of Huronian age are found *in situ* on the Height of Land itself.

That the peat-mosses repose on a gently sloping subsoil of clay at such a height above the rivers as to admit of very easy drainage, and that in consequence of this and other exceptionally favourable conditions, it is highly probable very large areas of these muskegs or peat-mosses may be reclaimed at a very moderate expense and converted into fine pasture, if not into good arable land. That while there is quite sufficient arable land to grow bread-stuffs for the consumption of a considerable population, it is doubtful whether or not this will be a grain exporting territory.

This will depend in a great measure on the success which may attend the attempts to reclaim the land now buried under a greater or less depth of peat. The writer believes that these attempts will be successful, and that in respect of these areas (and they are of vast extent), where the covering of peat is not more than five or six feet in thickness, the reclamation of such land is not only practicable, but that the resulting soil, composed as it would be of an admixture of peat-ashes and peat, with the underlying marl, could hardly fail to be a fine wheat-growing soil. Nor are other hopeful conditions wanting, for (in addition to the fact that the climate of this great basin of Hudson's Bay has in all probability been slowly improving ever since the culminating point of the Glacial Epoch, and will in all likelihood continue to do so for many centuries to come) we know that the drainage of great tracts of country exercises a remarkably favourable influence on the climate, both as regards temperature and otherwise. Thus it is to say the least quite possible, that an intelligent, industrious, and energetic people, aided by all the resources that science, machinery, and wealth can furnish, and protected by wise and just laws, in the possession and enjoyment of the fruits of their labour, such a people as we trust our descendants will be, may yet reclaim and convert this almost unknown and despised territory into one of the finest wheat-growing regions on this continent.

In the meantime, however, it appears to me that a mixed system of husbandry will be the most suitable to the earlier condition of the country, and that stock-raising and dairy-farming will probably be the most profitable branches.

As the breeding of cattle in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, to be afterwards sold and fattened in the south for the English market has long been found profitable both to the breeders in the north and to the feeders in the south; so likewise may we anticipate that the breeding of cattle in this territory, to be afterwards fattened in southern Ontario, will be extensively followed, with great advantage to the people of both sections of our province.

My explorations also enable me to say with confidence that the mineral resources of this territory promise to become of very great value and importance. Iron, lead and copper ores, china-clay, gypsum, and [illegible] yellow and brown ochres have been already found, and this for the most part in great abundance. Lignite or brown coal has been discovered in seven or eight different places, and beds of this coarse but useful fuel are believed to underlie large tracts of country.

The peat-beds are so extensive as to be *practically inexhaustible*, and these together with the lignite will in all probability prove sooner or later of inestimable value as fuel,