

Mr. R. S. Cook, Mayor of Prince Albert, was examined on the country north of Prince Albert. He said that in the Beaver River country there is a large quantity of very good spruce. Through the region north of Prince Albert and on to Montreal Lake it is pretty much of a timber country. There have been a good many fires, however, which have in many places burnt off the soil. There is much good poplar, but as there is plenty of spruce it is not used now to any great extent. Through the country between Prince Albert and Stanley Mission there is a lot of good timber, including large quantities of merchantable spruce. A good deal has been taken up but a good deal of it is left. There is an unlimited quantity of pulp wood; where it is not good timber it is good pulp wood. There is no calculating the amount of timber that has been destroyed by fire, but the Government is now taking steps to try and put a stop to the burning.

Archdeacon J. McKay said that around Lake la Rouge there is much good timber. Fire had done most damage in the rocky parts. A saw-mill run by water-power was put up at Lake la Rouge in 1905 by Mr. McKay. The logs sawn are the kind of timber found in that part of the country. They average seventeen logs to the thousand feet, the logs being fourteen to fifteen feet long. The diameter would be about two feet across at the butt—good, large logs and clean timber. This good timber is scattered all over the country.

As a whole the evidence taken by the Committee showed that throughout the whole northern country, from Ungava to the mouth of the Mackenzie, there is an abundant supply of timber for all local needs, and in many districts plenty for shipment to the prairie when transportation facilities are better. Very extensive areas have been swept by fire, and vast quantities of good timber have been destroyed in this way, but the needs of the treeless parts of the Northwest are small compared with the available supply of lumber north of them, and if better protection is given the northern forests the growing trees, even in the burnt districts, will have reached maturity before there is any danger of a timber famine in the Northwest.

Dealing with the more southern portions of what is still known to the average man as Keewatin, Mr. Low in his evidence referred to above stated that the forest between Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay had been largely destroyed by fire, but around some of the large lakes and on their islands and in other places, a fair growth of timber is found with white and black spruce, pine, aspen, poplar and white birch of eighteen inches diameter. The trees are fairly clean, and a great many of them would probably make two or three logs, so that what remains there of the timber is fairly good, except on the low swamp land where