

Clay.

Four miles east of the Natagan river, on the railway line, where a hole was dug to get water, a sample of clay was collected, which is probably of glacial origin, but resembles closely the Leda clay of the lower levels. Mr. F. G. Wait, chemist of the Mines Branch, Department of Mines, reports as follows on a sample submitted to him for examination: 'The sample of clay, from a point on the National Transcontinental railway four miles east of the Natagan river, has been examined and found to be:—

- (a) Rather strongly plastic.
- (b) Slightly ferruginous.
- (c) Slightly calcareous.
- (d) Somewhat strongly magnesian.

It contains little or no siliceous gritty matter—sand. When moulded into form and burned it yields a very strong, but readily fusible product. It would be suitable for the manufacture of bricks, tiles, and coarse pottery.'

Farther east, about seven miles from Bell river, at another opening in a moss covered swamp, the clay thrown up is a typical boulder clay. Fifty boulders were counted on the heap, varying from 2 inches to 1 foot in diameter. They were partly rounded and well striated. Eight were granite and gneiss, and the rest green schists or diabase. This clay is of a bluish-drab colour, and extends over a large area.

Asbestos.

Seven miles east of the Harricanaw river, on a hill a short distance north of the railway line, there is a serpentine rock containing small threads of asbestos, not exceeding a quarter of an inch in length.

TIMBER.

Spruce trees large enough to make sawlogs grow close to the rivers and lakes, and wherever the land is sufficiently elevated to afford good drainage. Such areas are found all over the western part of the sheet, but especially on Fly river, Makamik lake, Lois river, Nawapitechin river, Harricanaw river, Peter Brown creek, Natagan river, Bell river, and Migiskan river; and to a less extent on the Atik river, and other rivers and lakes to the east. The