

above the sea level, generally flat and including a good deal of arable land under the head both of soil and climate, and is separated on its southern side by another range of mountainous country from the great plain already described.

I invite Your Honor's attention to these facts, which are attested by the official reports of surveys and explorations, and which conclusively show that this northern region, too often represented as a country of mountains and for the most part unsuited to settlement, contains more than 20,000,000 of acres of good level lands, where colonization and agriculture may be carried on under the most advantageous conditions.

In rear of the mountains of the south shore, there is the great Silurian and Devonian plain extending from the river Chaudière to Gaspé and comprising 3,000,000 acres of the best arable lands or very nearly as much as the total acreage under cultivation in the whole province. It is impossible to read the reports of the explorers without being struck with the immense resources which these fine lands offer to agriculture. In my own report for the fiscal year 1888, I directed Your Honor's attention to the advantages which this region holds out to agriculture, and I trust that this volume will have the effect of directing a portion of the colonizing movement towards this fine country, which is capable of sustaining a numerous population in ease and comfort.

Even should this book have no other effect except to spread a better knowledge of these two great fields for colonization, I am of opinion that its utility will be already established beyond question.

GEO. DUHAMEL,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT,  
Quebec, 8th October, 1889. }