

## THE TIMBER.

The timber consists of a growth of small poplars, a few spruce, with here and there a tamarac, but the greater bulk of the timber is jack pine—a resinous fir that predominates throughout the whole country. The settler can make very good wages cutting jack pine into cord-wood, for which there is always a ready cash sale, at from \$1.65 to \$1.80 per cord delivered at railroad. It is shipped to Winnipeg in box cars, where it is used as fuel. It is handled at all seasons of the year. In three months 240 car-loads were shipped from Dryden to Winnipeg. A large portion of the timber is dead, recent fires having killed it, and it is this dead jack pine that helps to keep the people of Winnipeg warm. Tamarac ties, eight feet long, sell at 25 cts. each, while ties of the same material twelve feet, are worth 40 cents. For the first few years the settlers will have remunerative winter work chopping and hauling cordwood and making ties. The country has not all been burned over, and to the south, east and north-east there is a thick forest growth of small green timber which is easily cleared. The bulk of the timber throughout the whole country is small, ranging from three to ten inches in thickness, and in some places there is no timber whatever, with here and there a small poplar scrub. In fact there are large areas at the present time almost fit for the plow. The timber has been burned off nearly clean, and the land is growing up with native grass and wild peas.

## THE CLIMATE.

At Wabigoon the climate is very healthy. The summers are moderately warm, with cool nights, and heavy dews. The fall months are generally dry, with plenty of sunlight. The winters are steadily cold, but free from blizzards, and from chilly rains and slushy thaws. Some seasons the snow-fall is light. This spring most of the seed was sown in April, but generally the seeding is done about the first week in May.

Although crops have been grown for three or four seasons, summer frosts are unknown. In passing through the district on the 18th of July, I stayed over a day and made a hurried second examination of the crops. Potatoes that were planted in the latter part of May had made rapid growth; they were rank, green and healthy. The withering blight of the severe frost of July 10th, which was felt with such damaging effect over a large part of Ontario, hurt neither the crops nor the tenderest vegetables in this section, for I saw potatoes, beans, corn, tomatoes, citrons, and cucumbers, fresh, green, healthy, and growing well. Summer frosts have not done any damage here. Plowing usually begins about the last week in April and finishes about the second week in November.

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