

On the main body of the lake, and to the northward, the summer season is shorter and colder than in the vicinity of the post. During the month of July, the low lands bordering the lake were frozen solid within one foot of the surface, in all places where the trees were at all dense. This marked difference is undoubtedly due to the proximity to such a large body of cold water, which lowers the general temperature of the air during the warmer portions of the year. The soil overlying the Laurentian gneisses and schists is light and sandy, only a thin layer generally resting on these rocks.

At the Hudson Bay post, the most favorable point on the lake for agriculture, a poor crop of potatoes is raised yearly. They are small, as the tops are always frozen before reaching maturity. In the spring, as soon as the frost was out of the ground, I sowed garden peas, beans, corn, and turnips. On August 20th the peas were beginning to fill the pods, the beans were in flower, and the corn only eighteen inches above the ground; the turnips also were growing nicely. I believe that barley has been sown here, but would not ripen.

Covering the higher ground, at the southern end, white spruce, poplar, balsam-fir and white birch trees were found, some of which had a diameter of eighteen inches, three feet from the ground. The swamps are covered with a thick growth of small-sized black spruce and tamarac, and the small areas of burned land are generally clad with a second-growth of banksian pine.

Having no pork, our men from lake St. John refused to remain longer, so Mr. Macoun and I were again alone at the post awaiting the arrival of the brigade from the coast, having engaged a passage down the Rupert river in the canoe returning there.

After the arrival of the canoes, we left on Aug 22nd, and traveling from daylight to dark in a large canoe with ten paddles, we reached Rupert House September 3rd. From that place we crossed the south end of James Bay to Moose Factory, and then went up the Moose River to the C. P. Ry. at the Height of Land, where we left the canoes after an interior water journey of over 1000 miles.