

hot it burnt the top of the soil. He would judge that 75 per cent of that country has good agricultural soil as soon as it is cleaned out.

FORESTRY.

Passing down the Beaver river country and towards Prince Albert, there is a large quantity of very good spruce. Witness thought that the soil throughout had been in the main very good but the fires had been very destructive, and burned off a good deal of the top soil. Where that top soil is gone the country is of very little use. It is growing up with black birch and second growth poplar, but where the fires have not destroyed the top soil it is a good country. There are openings, but to no great extent.

Down through the region immediately north of Prince Albert, and on through to Montreal lake, it is pretty much a timber country, and the same remarks will apply to it. The soil is better throughout. There is more good land, and always has been, and the timber is better wherever it is left. The fires have been very destructive there.

The poplar is good wood and will be useful some day. At present it is not used as it is not required, there being plenty of spruce, but it will be used some day.

There is quite a lot of timber all through the country between Prince Albert and Stanley Mission. There is merchantable spruce in large quantities around there. A good deal of it is taken up by timber berths, but there is a good deal of it left. There are small bluffs scattered all through the country. There is an unlimited quantity of pulp wood in there. Where it is not good timber it is pulp wood.

About two-thirds of the timber immediately around Stanley Mission has been destroyed by fire.

There is no calculating the amount of the timber that has been destroyed, and the very best spruce at that. The government are now taking steps to try and put a stop to the burning. They have fire engines out there during the dry season, but it is such a vast country it is a very difficult matter.

FISHERIES.

Mr. Cook is at the present time inspector of fisheries. Once, some years ago on the Beaver river, he had seen 32,000 whitefish caught in two nights, which would average about 2 or 2½ pounds each. They put up the winter supply of fish in three or four nights. These fish were caught by half-breeds and Indians. The fish were coming down after spawning, and those catching them set the nets right across the river. This happened in close season, 'but they did not bother about that; it was the fish they were after.'

There are whitefish, trout, jackfish, and some sturgeon in the Torch and Saskatchewan rivers.

Reindeer lake and the small lakes all around it are full of fish. They fish up there until about December 1. Sometimes the lakes are open until December 15, and break up again about May 15 to 20. It depends upon the size of the lake. If it is a very large lake it will take a little longer. Witness had seen the lakes open on December 15. Those lakes are teeming with fish, with whitefish, sturgeon and trout. The trout run as high as 50 pounds.

The sturgeon run from ten to one hundred pounds. Witness had never seen one over 100 pounds. He had seen one whitefish that weighed 17½ pounds, and trout that weighed fifty. He had them for the exhibition in Ottawa, but the train was blocked and did not get through. The biggest jackfish he had ever seen weighed forty-five pounds. They have some little bits of things and they range from that up. In other places they have big fish from ten to forty-five pounds in weight. There is no