

But it is not only regarding the size of the lake that we have had misleading reports ; the climate and capabilities of the country have been the subject of more serious misrepresentation, as you will see by the following extract from a report of a celebrated Frenchman named André Michaud, which appeared in the bulletin of the American Geographical Society in 1888.

" In the neighborhood of Hudson Bay and the great Lake Mistassini
 " the trees which some degrees further south form the mass of the forest
 " have almost entirely disappeared in this latitude in consequence of the
 " severity of the winters and the sterility of the soil.

" The country is cut up by thousands of lakes and covered with
 " enormous rocks piled one on the top of the other, which are often car-
 " peted with large lichens of a black color, and which increase the sombre
 " aspect of these desert and almost uninhabitable regions.

" It is in the spaces between the rocks that one finds a few pines
 " (*pinus rupertis*) which attain an altitude of three feet, and even at this
 " small height show signs of decay.

" However 150 miles further south this tree acquires a better and
 " stronger growth, but it never rises higher than eight or ten feet."

Mr. Michaud claims to have gone up to Mistassini *via* Lake St. John and descended the Rupert river to within a short distance of James Bay and returned by the same route. In the interest of the province it is time that such reports should cease.

I do not understand how any man could have made such a report. Certainly there are lots of spruce trees around lake Mistassini that measure between one and two feet in diameter, and Mr Miller assured me that he cut one that measured $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter on the stump. Spruce trees from one to two feet in diameter are found at intervals all the way from lake Mistassini to James Bay.

In the environs of lake Mistassini the soil is good, but the season is so short and subject to early frost that I do not think farming would ever succeed there. Mr Miller raises good potatoes and cabbages, etc. but like most H. B. C.'s men his forte is not in the agricultural line.