

affluents of the Wilmot Horton flow through valleys in which a few stunted spruce, birch and willows appear at intervals. On the banks of one of these, near its mouth, we observed a sheltered grove of spruce and willows of larger growth, wherein moose and musk oxen had frequently browsed. We met with no more spruce nor any traces of the moose to the eastward, and I doubt if many stragglers range beyond Lat. 69° North.

The greater part of the Barren Grounds is every season covered with short grasses, mosses and small flowering plants, while patches of sedgy or peaty soil occur at longer or shorter distances. On these, as well as along the smaller rivulets, river and lake banks, Labrador tea, crow-berries and a few other kinds of berries, dwarf birch, willows, etc., grow. Large flat spaces had the honey-combed appearance usually presented in early spring by land which has been turned over in the autumn. There were few signs of vegetation on these, while some sandy and many other spots were virtually sterile. * * * Traces of the dark bituminous formation seen on the Lockhart, Anderson and Ross rivers, of the 1857 report, no doubt exist along the Wilmot Horton River and the greater part of Franklin Bay, especially to the north of our camping point [near its southern extremity.] The foregoing Barren Grounds are chiefly composed of a peaty, sandy, clayey or gravelly soil, but stones are rare, and rock *in situ* (limestone?) was encountered but two or three times on the line of march from the woods to the coast.