

COULTS RIVER DISTRICT

This district is bounded on the north by the Lesser Slave River Valley district, on the west by Upper Sauleux and Vermilion Creek district, and on the south and east by the limit of survey.

Coults river runs through the centre of this district lengthwise. The Sauleux river runs along the northwest side. The main part of the district is occupied by the valleys of these rivers and the watershed between them which consists of low ridges. The north part of the district is low, mostly muskeg. A long, low ridge forming the east rim of the Coults River valley is taken as the east side of the district.

Most of the district is sand or stones. The northern end has boulder clay ridges and muskeg. No agricultural land occurs in this district.

Most of this district is covered with a poor stand of jack pine pole growth. This will run over the entire area, 25 ties and 5 cords of wood per acre. There are some 100,000 acres, or 2,250,000 ties and 450,000 cords of wood.

North of this sand region is an area of partially burnt jack pine-poplar country mixed with muskegs. Sixty per cent of the country is timbered with five cords of pulpwood per acre. There are, altogether, some 24,000 acres of which 14,000 are timbered. This gives 72,000 cords of pulpwood.

North of this tract, again, at the extreme north end of the district, is muskeg with ridges of jack pine pole stuff, too small to be of use yet. There are some twenty square miles of this type.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF TIMBER.

Type.	Area	AVERAGE PER ACRE			TOTALS FOR DISTRICT.		
		Ties.	Cordwood	Timber	Ties.	Pulpwood	Timber
	Acres.	Pieces.	Cords.	Fe. B.M.	Pieces.	Cords.	Fe. B.M.
Jack Pine	100,000		25	5	2,250,000	450,000	
Poplar, Jack Pine and Spruce	14,000		5	5		72,000	
					2,250,000	522,000	

PROPOSED FOREST RESERVES.

From the foregoing report it will be seen that there are large areas of non-agricultural land both north and south of the lake. These areas are, in general, more or less elevated regions and form the head-waters of streams draining in every direction. The question of the preservation of the forest cover, so that as even a flow of water as possible may be insured, is an important one in this district because the main drainage streams are navigable rivers. Of late years, the continual denudation of the country containing the head waters of the Lesser Slave River tributaries by fire has given rise to alternating conditions of very low and very high water, which has proved very harmful to navigation. Indeed, things have come already to such a pass that every bad storm means a miniature freshet, and a week's rain, a swollen torrent, bringing down trees and driftwood of all kinds, which is a menace to navigation. The principal rivers causing this are the Moose, Driftpile, Sauleux and Otauwau.

The effect of these varying conditions is felt especially keenly in that part of the Lesser Slave river between Sauleux Landing and the mouth of the river at Mirror landing. Between these two places is a twenty mile stretch of river, which is one continual succession of rapids. On this stretch the government has already expended over