

Undersized
pine left
uncut
matures
rapidly.
Striking
instances.

This remark is applicable to all timber regions as I have had ample occasion to notice. In one case where no error could occur, a small timber berth with well marked outlines, which had been stripped of every tree fit to be a saw log under an able manager, was cut over again by him eight years afterwards, when, by the increased size of the small trees formerly left as unfit, a greater number of saw logs were made from them than were got by the first cut eight years before; this could not take place where settlement was advancing, where the small pines are more convenient for settlers' use in building and fencing than large ones are. On the Gatineau I passed through an extensive grove of young red pine trees of fine growth that had previously been three times completely cut over since the commencement of lumbering there.

Saguenay
territory.

Reverting to the Saguenay, there is an extensive unknown tract, probably upwards of 15,000 square miles in area, commencing about 60 miles north from Lake St. John, seemingly drained on the east side by the head waters of the Paribouka, and westward by the large branches of the Mistassini and of the Chomouchuan. We may safely assume that it is covered by a broad band of poplar, birch, spruce, and tamarac (larch). Much of it, as seen on the south side of it, of a fair growth, and behind that, towards and about the height of land, the there prevalent stunted black spruce with extensive brulés interspersed throughout. The character of the timber of the two Saguenay agencies will be best seen by the totals cut on Crown lands from 1856 to 1881 inclusively, viz., of square timber 7,969 pieces, of which 343 were of white pine, 3,531 of red pine, and 4,095 of spruce and other kinds of wood; of saw logs there were 1,164,844 of pine and 3,432,185 of spruce, or, say, three times as many spruce as pine logs.

Timber and
saw logs on
which Crown
dues were
paid 1856
to 1881.

The minor descriptions of wood goods are omitted as unnecessary for this comparison, nor does it include the timber and saw logs of pine and spruce from private lands, the quantity of which from private lands where settlement is advancing is very considerable. In 1856 and 1857 there were nearly twice as many pine logs cut as spruce. In the following 20 years, the proportion of spruce logs gradually increased, and more rapidly during the last five years, in which there were very nearly 13 times as many spruce logs as pine taken out, the annual cut of pine logs during the last five years having fallen irregularly to about half what it was in the early years, indicating that the pine is becoming scarce, while the spruce continues abundant in the Saguenay country. The total of Crown timber revenue that accrued from the two Saguenay agencies during the whole period was \$369,670¹⁰/₁₀₀. Of what may have been collected during the several years prior to 1856 that lumbering was carried on in the Saguenay country I have not been able to find any published record.

Saguenay
territory.
Decrease of
pine logs
and great
increase of
spruce.
Crown
timber
revenue,
1856 to
1861.

The area of them held under licenses from the Crown to cut timber is 4,462 square miles.

St. Maurice
territory.

The next section of the great central division of our northern forest region is that of the St. Maurice. Consisting chiefly of the area of 16,000 square miles drained by that river and its tributaries, with the addition of the waste lands of the Crown on the River Batiscan and lesser streams between it and the rear of the seigniories on the St. Lawrence. The area under license from the Crown to cut timber is 9,824 square miles. The St. Maurice territory, though it has no such extensive tract equal in fertility and climate behind its old settlements on the St. Lawrence as the Saguenay has at Lake St. John, surpassed the Saguenay originally in the value of its timber forests, owing to the greater proportion of pine on its middle and lower course and on the tributaries therein joining it. In general position the St. Maurice is from one degree in its upper course to two degrees in its lower course south of the Saguenay, though inferior to the Saguenay in climate, owing to the advantage the latter has in temperature from its comparative depression below its surrounding country. At Kikendatch, on the Upper St. Maurice, potatoes seldom or scarce come to maturity, though it is, on the same latitude as the settlements on Lake St. John in Upper Saguenay, the best wheat growing country in the province of Quebec. The same broad band of poplar, birch, spruce, and tamarac forest, interspersed with extensive brulés already mentioned as prevailing along the northern limit of the growth of pine, sweeps down southward as the line of colder temperature does, covering the head waters of the St. Maurice down to Weymontacheuc, and northward behind this zone of poplar and birch there is here, as elsewhere along the height of land and beyond it, the country where scrubby stunted black spruce woods, interspersed with burnt barrens predominate. But even there, at the height of land, a fine grove of larch trees (some of them of great size) was found by P. L. Surveyor Bignell, in accordance with the important fact that on suitable soil larch could be successfully cultivated in the coldest parts of the province far north of the limits of the growth of pine.

Area.

Licensed do.

St. Maurice
territory.

Climate.

Stunted
wood and
barren at
source.
But larch
trees of
great size
found there.