

THE WABIGOON COUNTRY.

Having finished my examination of the land in the vicinity of Port Arthur, I went west on the Canadian Pacific Railway main line, 217 miles, when I reached the town of Dryden, which is in the centre of the Wabigoon district. It and the town of Wabigoon, which is about 12 miles east of Dryden, are the two most important centres of population between Port Arthur and Rat Portage. This agricultural section is midway between Fort William on Lake Superior to the east, and the city of Winnipeg to the west. The Canadian Pacific Railway passes through the district. The fertile land extends for forty miles along the railway line from Dinorwick to Eagle River.

It is estimated that the area of good agricultural land in this district is about 170,000 acres, enough to form a fair sized county, comprising the townships of Wainwright, Van Horne, Eton, Rugby, Sandford, Aubrey and Zealand, with another yet unsurveyed around Dinorwick. The area now located is about 30,000 acres.

The land is rolling, and very little low, flat, or swamp land can be seen. Few people would believe that there is any land suitable for farming between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods, but if at Dryden they would go inland from the railway six or eight miles, they would find some very comfortable farm homes. In one or two of the townships the country is broken with rocky ridges, but others are almost entirely free from rock or stone.

THE SOIL.

The soil is quite uniform in character, and consists of a strong grey-colored clay, which changes in the lower sections to clay loam. On the creek bottoms the soil is very rich, and heavier timbered, making the clearing more difficult. On the rolling upland the clay seems to be of a drier nature, and will require much more rain or moisture than the loamier soil in the same neighborhood. I saw no gravelly soil and very little sand. In the neighborhood of the junction between the Pelican and Wabigoon rivers, judging from the luxuriant growth in the bush of wild peas, wild currants, and native grass, I should say that the soil is more of a loamy nature, and presents a very favorable situation to the intending settler. Not much of the land in this locality has yet been taken up. The soil all over the district is exceptionally free from boulders and rolling stone. The clay that crumbles when worked and cultivated, is very productive; but where it is of a dry flaky nature, it will require either manure or green crops plowed in to put life into and quicken it before it will give the best results.