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river banks or beneath a thick coating of vegetable matter in the woods. Under either of such circumstances "perpetual frost" may be found in the latitude of Montreal. That the soil is fertile is proved by the gardens at Norway House, Cross Lake, and Oxford House, at all of which very fine root crops and vegetables are grown. Barley ripens well as far north-east as Oxford House at least. At York Factory potatoes are the only crop at present cultivated.

The most useful kinds of timber in the region under consideration are the spruce and tamarac, which extend to beyond the Churchill River, and also the Banksian pine, which is found almost as far as York Factory; these species would all be valuable for railway ties and telegraph poles, as well as for fuel. The white birch ranges to the Steel River, while the northern limits of the aspen, the balm of Gilead and several kinds of willow are beyond the Nelson River.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBERT BELL, M.D.,

*Graduate in Civil Engineering.*