

found an open margin, very fertile and covered with an abundance of good grass. He did not mean by this "beaver hay," but a very superior kind of grass, which was found by experience to be very valuable as fodder for cattle and horses. The country is very free from rocks, and at one place they could not find stones large enough to sink the lower edge of their net. There is evidence in the Nipigon country, as well as in the Thunder Bay region, that the forests have been frequently swept by fires in past times, and the Indians told him that these fires often originated from lightning. It was likely that prairies were formed in this way. He believed there was a tradition among the Indians that the prairies once extended eastward as far as Lake Nipigon, but all the country east of the Lake of the Woods has since been overgrown with forest. They sometimes left the stores and struck away into the woods and generally found the country level. Although the soil was good the trees were small, and stood so far apart that the party could carry their canoe without underbrushing a road anywhere. After having prosecuted their survey for seven weeks, they arrived at the Nipigon House, a Hudson Bay post, on the north-west shore of the Lake. This was one of the three posts maintained by the Company on the lake shore. The Nipigon House is surrounded with a farm and garden, which have been cultivated for about 100 years. During the early part of the present century the station was called Fort Duncan, and then, as now, it supplied the neighbouring country. The appearance of the field and garden crops indicated that the soil was well suited for agricultural purposes. The latitude of that part of the country was about the same as at the mouth of the St. Lawrence—between 49° and 50° north latitude, but it was well known that in that part of the country the isothermal lines bend to the North-West. The survey revealed the encouraging fact that we have an easy route for the construction of a railway to the North West.—*Gazette*.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—The next meeting will be held at Troy, (N. Y.), on the 17th August next. Members desiring the usual facilities for travel, &c., will obtain the required information on application to H. B. Nason, Esq., Correspondent Secretary, Troy, N. Y.