

The Metabetchonan, in a distance of 80 miles (kilometres) has a descent of 225 feet—the greater portion of which is accomplished by means of cascades and rapids—within a distance of 4 miles.

Here, then, in the single region of which the basin of Lake St. John is the great water reservoir, are rivers and streams having over 700,000 horse power, capable of being utilized for manufacturing purposes. This, it is stated, is a power much in excess of that which could be supplied by the rivers of Norway and Sweden.

This territory of Lake St. John has an area of 19,000,000 acres, of which less than half a million have been stripped of their wood; the remainder are in forests.

Three-quarters of these forests are white, black and red spruce. The other quarter contains spruce, birch, cypress and pine.

The quantity of wood for paper pulp is, therefore, very large.

Taking the very low estimate of five cords to the acre as an average yield of the region, the following table expresses the immense resources of the region:—

REGION.	EXTENT (Acres)	CORDS OF PULP WOOD.
Peribonka.....	8,320,000	41,600,000
Mistassini.....	4,800,000	24,000,000
Chamouchouan.....	3,200,000	16,000,000
Ouiatchouan.....	3,200,000	16,000,000
Total.....	19,520,000	97,600,000

It will be seen at a glance that even at the very lowest estimate of a cord and a half of wood for each ton of chemical pulp, there is in sight, in the region of Lake St. John, sufficient material to provide for a demand of wood pulp of 1,000,000 tons a year for 65 years—without taking into consideration the reproductive powers of nature.

In a word, this one little bit of a water centre of Canada has a forest area equal to the whole forest area of Norway, or to more than one-third the forest area of Sweden, and has within this area 700,000 horse power of