

New growth
since Miramichi
fire of 1825.

certain localities being, however, somewhat different, especially within the area burnt over by the great Miramichi fire of 1825. Outside of that area, hemlock, black and white spruce, fir, black, white and yellow birch, maple, beech, poplar, white and red pine, etc., are the principal trees on the drier grounds. On the swamps and inter-
vales, cedar, haematac (larch), ash, elm, balsam-poplar, etc., occur. There is, generally speaking, a heavy growth of wood, except where the original forest has been destroyed by fires. Within the area overrun by the great Miramichi fire referred to, a growth of trees has sprung up which is in some respects different from that destroyed. Large groves of poplar on the damp grounds, and white birch, maple and beech on the drier, were especially noticeable, each of these growing in spots to the almost entire exclusion of any other tree. Upon the sandy and gravelly tracts, however, groves of red pine and black spruce are the prevailing forms, while along dry river banks, white spruce is the most abundant tree. The latter has attained, since the fire, a thickness of 12 to 15 inches above the roots. Haematac (larch) is common in bogs. The hemlock does not seem to have grown again after its destruction. In general the young growth of trees forms a dense forest.

Character of Soil upon the Cambro-Silurian Belts.

Soil of Cambro-
Silurian area,
quality of.

Of the two belts of Cambro-Silurian rocks crossing the district, that adjoining the Carboniferous is the lowest and contains the best lands. Many parts of it are boulder-strewn, but along the Nepisiguit, the main North-West Miramichi and Big Sevogle (see Dr. Ellis' reports, Reports of Progress, 1879-80 and 1880-81-82) there are some tracts containing excellent soil. North of the Nepisiguit, about the headwaters of Little and Pabineau rivers, there are also areas of fine land, well suited for agricultural purposes but still in a wilderness state.

Trees upon it.

On the north-western band of these rocks the land is higher and appears to be more boulder-strewn.* Both are still largely covered with a heavy growth of birch, maple, beech, spruce, pine, etc. The river valleys are generally pretty wide and contain flats with excellent soil.

The wide terraces along the Big Sevogle (see map) are clothed with a dwarfed growth of red and Banksian pine 10 to 20 feet in height. The flats support elms, poplars, etc. Strange to say, the last mentioned trees, even within the limits of the great fire of 1825, seem, in many places, to have escaped its ravages.

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