

APPENDIX No. 1

day or two from the looks of it, and the priest later told him all their grain was cut without a bit of frost. July 28 is very early to harvest crops, but you would not think so up there. They have lots of sunlight. One could sit out all night and read. The altitude is low, and you can see the reflection of the sunset and sunrise. The witness was not far enough north to see the midnight sun. They can grow all kinds of wild fruits in that country, but not apples. The witness got very fine strawberries at Fort Providence, and there were raspberries, blueberries and cranberries also. The furthest north witness had seen apples was at Edmonton. They might grow further north.

FORESTRY.

Down the Athabaska river from Athabaska Landing to the junction of the Little Slave, the banks of the river are fringed with timber, probably from half a mile to two miles wide. Witness did not think it is more. The spruce is fairly large in some districts—fit for sawlogs, and mostly all fit for ties and small building timber. Some of it was very large spruce for that country, three feet across the stump. There is an Indian reserve along the Little Slave river, and a portion of that has good timber. The Indians have the finest piece of timber on the Lesser Slave lake as a reservation, the spruce is large, and there is a species of poplar, what they call the black-bark poplar, which grows very large there. Witness had seen it from three to four feet across the stump. It grows very large, and sometimes fifty to sixty feet high on this low land. The north side of Lesser Slave lake is covered with quite a heavy second growth of poplar, some spruce, but not very much, and the poplar is not very big, probably from nine to twelve inches through, and grows very slim and tall. It is very long, just a little bunch of limbs at the end of it, and the trees grow close together all along the north side of Lesser Slave lake.

When you get back about half way between Lesser Slave and Whitefish lake, you strike a timber belt running from that to Whitefish lake, and there is some spruce and a great deal of poplar. Witness had seen spruce logs there two feet through, a great many of them in that section of the country.

After leaving the Prairie river valley to cross over to the Little Smoky, you do not meet any timber until you come towards the Little Smoky river. About nine miles in width from the Smoky there is a timber belt probably 25 or 30 miles long, from information witness got from the Indians, and eight or nine miles wide, going through it, mostly spruce and black-bark poplar.

The country lying due west of Sturgeon lake, between that and the Big Smoky is, some parts of it, muskeg, but there is a lot of very good land too and some very good timber, and along the banks of the Big Smoky there is some excellent spruce.

Mr. Conroy never was there, but the Indians told him that on the east side of the Smoky there is quite a big limit of timber. Most of it is spruce, and in the low land tamarack, so that there is quite an area of timber along the Big Smoky.

After leaving the Puskopee prairie going to the west there is no more open country, but there is a timber country right across to the Pine river. The banks of the Pine are very high, higher than the banks of the Smoky. Witness thought they were about as high as the Peace. They commenced away back, and the timber all along on the steep banks is very high. The belt of trees appeared to him to be wider along there than anywhere else, between six and seven miles wide in the part he went through himself. It runs right through a bald hill where it enters the Peace.

The south side has the trees. On the south side of St. John's in British Columbia, between that and the Peace, the country is not much good. It is a very high country. There is some timber, but not of any economic use, mere brush. On the sides of the banks it might be of some use.

Witness had been 13 or 14 miles north from Dunvegan on the Peace, and found timber growing pretty large. There are groves in that country through which a man