

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
FORESTRY BRANCH,

OTTAWA, July 15, 1913.

SIR.—I beg to submit herewith a report by Mr. L. C. Tilt, B.Sc. F., on the "Timber and Soil Conditions of Southeastern Manitoba" and to recommend its publication as Bulletin No. 45 of this Branch.

The report outlines the result of work in the summer of 1912 by a party of which Mr. Tilt was the head. The object of the party was to investigate the soil and other conditions of part of Southeastern Manitoba, with a view of ascertaining whether the country was suitable for farming or would be of greater value if kept for forest growth. The country examined included the valleys of the Whitemouth and Winnipeg rivers, and comprised, roughly, the easternmost nine ranges, from the international boundary to a few miles north of the Winnipeg river—the forest region extending east from the Brokenhead river.

A considerable proportion of the country was found suitable for a forest reserve, and a map is included in the bulletin showing this tract. Closer examination, however, will be necessary to determine the final boundary of the reserve.

By far the greatest part of the country was found to be of the muskeg type, much of which may, as the result of further examination and experiment in dealing with country of this class, be found suitable for agriculture. About twenty per cent of the 3,816 square miles of country examined (not including the Laurentian area) is poplar land, which after being cleared will be suitable for farming.

A comparatively small part of the entire tract mentioned above—a total of 287 square miles, or some seven per cent of the area—consists of jack pine land, which, being sandy and unfit for farming, is recommended to become part of the forest reserve.

The Laurentian country is also forest land and should be included in the reserve; but further examination is necessary to determine the boundaries of the territory to be included.

Your obedient servant,

R. H. CAMPBELL,
Director of Forestry.

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