

Dawson, of the Geological Survey, reports: "I think it may be said without exaggeration that there is scarcely a stream of any importance in the province of British Columbia in which the 'colour' of gold is not found." Silver is met in several localities. Copper, mercury, lead, platinum, and nickel are also mentioned in the reports of the Geological Survey.

Very much still requires to be learned respecting the rock formation of the Mountain Region. Data have, however, been collected in a rapid and necessarily imperfect geological exploration sufficient to establish the existence of great mineral wealth. There can be no doubt that here we have a wide and promising field, and the future will witness industries of various kinds working and developing the riches which lie buried under the surface. The forests, of enormous growth, which exist in many places, and the fisheries of the rivers and coasts, will give employment to a very considerable population.

I must now turn to the Woodland Region, but to describe it even in outline would far exceed the limit of this paper; I must therefore content myself with a few passing remarks. I have already defined the Woodland Region to be the whole of Canada not within the Mountain Region in the west and the Prairie Region in the middle; it therefore embraces all the settled portions of the eastern provinces which were wooded at one time, but have within a brief period in part been cleared by the hand of man. This Region is of immense extent; it embraces 84 degrees of longitude; its most southerly point is on Lake Erie, in the 42nd parallel, and stretches from the latitude of Rome away far north to a point at least 200 miles within the Arctic circle. Compared with the country on the Pacific coast, no part of this region can be considered mountainous. Although elevated ranges, like the Laurentides, are met, only a small proportion of the country exceeds 2,000 feet above sea-level. An area of fully 200,000 square miles is estimated to be under 500 feet.

So great an extent of territory presents many varieties. In the north it assumes an Arctic character, and resembles portions of Siberia. The nearest portion of Canada to Europe is that which is least known and believed to be least valuable. It is bounded on the west by Hudson's Bay, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Its extreme length from north to south is about 1,000 miles, and about the same length from east to west. This section of Canada is somewhat greater in area than Norway and Sweden, Denmark and Lapland, and a great extent of it is considered to have no better climate than the northern parts of these European countries.