

Northern Ontario

Northern Ontario is an immense, forest-robed land, stretching from the Province of Quebec on the east to Manitoba on the west, and extending north for 770 miles from Old Ontario to Hudson Bay, an area of 333,000 square miles, or 208,000 square miles larger than the British Isles.

Its climate is similar to that of Manitoba, and its soil is as rich. There are from 16 to 20 million acres of arable land, with only a handful of people say, 250,000, making up its population. Its forest wealth is very great, its mineral wealth alluring, and its volume of water power grand, for there are countless lakes, lakelets and rivers large and small. Game and fish abound, making it the sportsman's delight. Already there are thousands of miles of colonization roads and steam railways, spreading like a spider's web over a huge part of that vast new land. Villages, towns and cities have arisen with a wonderful modern equipment. Northern Ontario calls, not for the weak and careless, but for the hardy, resolute, self-sacrificing pioneer. Some day it will be the home of millions and in the teeth of frost and fire and all other natural obstacles, as in the Prairie, it will, like Ontario to the south, blossom as the rose.

The following features.—Crops, timber, and minerals, tell in brief detail what the new land is and what it has done.

CROPS.

The different kinds of crops grown in Northern Ontario are cereals, legumes or hay crops, roots and fruits. If regard be paid to proper variety, and right time to seeding, many kinds of grains do well. Here the beginner should get information from older settlers or from the local representative of the Department of Agriculture. Late maturing grains may be sown for hay. Corn cannot be profitably grown but in certain parts. All kinds of clover have excellent growth, and large returns of various nutritious hay are got. Clover and timothy, with exceptional quality and vitality of seed, are profitably grown practically all over the agricultural areas. The right varieties of alfalfa give very good results in many parts. Avoid southern grown United States seed, and use seed of Grimm, Ontario Variegated or of the Russian varieties. Alfalfa will not be so much missed where red clover and alsike grow luxuriantly. The roots and vegetables of Northern Ontario are not excelled in abundance of growth by any part of the Province. Potatoes show great yields and mangels and turnips do well. An early variety of potatoes should be planted, particularly in the newer areas: for the spring and early fall frosts injure the crops of late maturity: whereas in the



A Harvest Scene in Northern Ontario.



Pulp Wood is a valuable asset to the Settler, being worth up to \$11.00 per cord.

older parts, pretty well cleared of timber, summer frosts are gradually going away and the risk of hurt is less. Vegetables of almost any kind give excellent returns. Apples are suitable only along the north shore of the Great Lakes and around large, inland lakes, but crabapples do well in a wider range. The beginner should make judicious inquiry as to the growing of fruit, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, etc., practically all kinds of small bush fruits are grown successfully. Many small fruits such as black currants, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, are growing wild and can be gathered and preserved for household use.

Coming to closer particulars.—Spring Marquis wheat, in rich clay loam, is grown 5 feet tall, heads averaging 4 inches long, 40 bushels per acre; in lighter soil, 4½ feet tall, heads average 2½ inches high, 35 bushels per acre. Oats, white, panical, about 5½ feet high, strong in straw, head large and well filled, first-class quality, averaging 60 bushels per acre; Banner type, 4 to 5 feet high, straw good, much grain plump and well filled, averaging 60 to 80 bushels per acre. Barley, O. A. C. No. 21, about 5 feet tall, good straw, heads averaging 2½ inches, well filled; O. A. C. 6-rowed, 52 bushels per acre; common 6-rowed, 4½ inches high, heads 3½ to 4 inches, grain plump and plentiful, 40 bushels and well over per acre; a 2-rowed barley of the duck-bill type, about 4 feet tall, good straw, heads averaging 2½ inches long, plump and well filled; Hulless barley, about 3½ feet tall, heads 2½ inches, well filled and kernels plump. Rye, over 6 feet, heads 5 inches, well filled; also 6½ to 9 feet high, straw good, seed plentiful and of good quality. Flax, good quality of fibre and well seeded. Millet, 5½ feet high, abundance of leaves and well seeded. Red clover, 4 feet high, large heads and good leaf development, can yield 6 to 8 bushels seed per acre; also second crop 2 feet high, with well developed flower heads. Sweet clover, sown June 1st on virgin soil has grown as high as 8 feet by August 15th. Timothy, 4½ to 5½ feet high with full heads from 3½ to 5 inches long, yielding good hay and seed. Alsike, 2 to 2½ feet high, well headed and plenty of leaves has produced as many as 9 bushels per acre. Alfalfa, 3½ feet high, good quality; also second cutting, fine straw, plentiful leaved. Bromes, 4½ feet high. Natural grass, from 4 to 5½ feet high, grows in most localities. Potatoes, 200 bags

(90 lbs.) and up to 400 bushels per acre (conservative estimate). Swedish turnips, 12 to 15 pounds each. Parsnips and carrots, up to 26 inches long. Cabbages, 10 to 20 pounds each. Peas, first-class, no weevil, as high as 38 bushels per acre.

TIMBER.

The timber of the great clay belt of Northern Ontario is principally spruce, poplar, balsam of gilead, balsam, with occasional groves of jack pine. Red and white pine are seldom found except on the southern border. The timber is chiefly valuable as pulp, although quantities suitable for lumber are to be found where the land is high. Spruce up to a diameter of 20 inches is not uncommon. Balsam of gilead and poplar are abundant on the high lands and make valuable lumber. Much of the spruce is of small dimensions, average from 4 to 10 inches in diameter. The pulpwood alone of Northern Ontario is a grand asset and a great opportunity for investment. Along the line of the National Transcontinental Railway there are about 300 million cords.

MINERALS.

The total value of the mineral output of Ontario is \$57,856,375 for 1915, as against \$46,295,959 for 1914. This is an increase of \$11,560,416 of which \$10,588,756 represents the increase in valuation put upon the nickel and copper contents of the Sudbury mattes. But even on the old low basis of valuation the increase is \$684,129.

Gold exhibits a large advance in 1915, to be credited mainly to the mines of Porcupine, but offset to some extent by a decrease in silver production, its output, however, being 23,730,830 ounces. In gold production Ontario stands first among the Provinces. As high as 411,588 ounces of gold, worth \$8,501,391, were produced in 1915, as compared with 268,942 ounces, worth \$5,529,767 in 1914, an increase of over 53 per cent.

The demand for nickel and copper for munition purposes has been abnormally great, and the mines have been worked to their utmost capacity.

LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Returned soldiers who are desirous of going upon the land under the Land Settlement Scheme of the Ontario Government, will be sent to the Agricultural Training Depot established on the Government Experimental Farm at Monteith, on the T. & N. O. Railway 444 miles north of Toronto. During the training period the men will be paid at the rate of \$1.10 per day. In addition, in the case of married men, or men with dependents, an allowance of \$6 per month per child under the age of 16 will be made, together with an allowance of \$5 per month for the wife, this grant being in lieu of that which under military service would be received from the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the maximum grant under this provision being \$30 per month. An additional grant of \$20 per month will be paid in lieu of the Dominion Government Separation Allowance, which is paid to the wives of soldiers on active service.

The Colonies will be established adjacent to the line of railway, and it is expected that the adoption of the community system will greatly assist in developing the social side of farm life.

Returned men wishing to take advantage of this scheme should communicate with Mr. Albert Grigg, Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario.

For further information relating to the Public Lands of Northern Ontario write to

H. A. MACDONELL

Director of Colonization, Parliament Bldgs., Toronto, Ont.

THE HON. G. HOWARD FERGUSON
Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines