

some places and inland for from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 mile. Now, the banks of the Frederick House River have not been visited by fire like those of the Abitibi. They are still densely wooded for its whole length with very little else than large healthy spruce. This river has its source in Frederick House Lake—one of the largest lakes mentioned at the start—is 150 ft. wide at its head, 150 yds. at its mouth, where it enters at the western angle of the Big Bend of the Abitibi and parallel in its general course with the latter river. It seems natural therefore, to suppose that in the intervening space between the two rivers there are areas of large red spruce and also of large poplar. Both of these big trees were found at several points from 2 to 5 miles inland, and Niven's Line, which traverses this country between the two rivers, passes through an extensive area of red spruce as large, Mr. Niven said, as any he had ever before seen.

The birch, unquestionably the most useful tree to the present inhabitants of the country—the Indians—grows quite plentifully here, generally intermixed with other trees. The large birch are only occasionally met with and then in groves or belts by themselves, the largest such found being at 8 miles above the Long Sault Rapids (or 30 miles above the Big Bend) and 1 mile inland. The trees, 12" to 18" diameter and 50' to 60' high, are beautiful specimens of their kind.

Six miles below Iroquois Falls or 13 miles below the mouth of the Black River, the Abitibi enters the Laurentian country, and after that the only rocks to be seen are pink and grey gneiss—except for a strip of Huronian 6 miles in width at the Long Portage—until the Devonian Limestone is reached about 125 miles further north at the Long Rapids, and this in turn extends without break to James Bay. No more quartz veins were found nor indeed any indications of the presence of gold-bearing ore. The country rock is so completely covered over with the surface deposits of clay and sand that whatever minerals there may be are effectually hidden from sight and from almost all chance of discovery.

Turning north from the Big Western Bend, the Abitibi River flows for several miles through a low flat area which, however, suddenly changes to a succession of high and steep hills—immense deposits of boulder clay (the first of the kind found, it being the southern limit in this Abitibi country) and in some cases of a fine sand capped by stratified clay. These hills, which extend far away from the river,