

ary Schools are numerous. The old-fashioned log-house schools are being replaced, generally, by solid and well-equipped modern buildings. Owing to the peculiar conditions in a new district, the Provincial Government makes a special provision for Northern Ontario, and liberal grants are given to aid the building of new schools.

Transportation. Easy transportation is afforded by a net-work of rivers and lakes which are full of fish. The region is traversed by the Can. Nat. Ry., T. & N.O.R., and C.P.R. There are colonization roads in the districts which are open for settlement.

CLAY BELT. From the shores of James Bay, flat, swampy land extends for about 150 miles. Thence the "Clay Belt" rises abruptly several hundred feet higher, the benches being similar to those in the Niagara Peninsula, near Hamilton. The soil is mostly a rich friable clay, with vegetable mould of varying depth. In part (e.g. at Englehart), sandy loam prevails suitable for fruit growing. Around Iroquois Falls the soil is browner towards the western end. In most places some drainage will be required, but the large number of runs affording natural outlets makes this easy. In the south, the Clay Belt begins about North Cobalt and Haileybury, and extends some 40 miles north bounded by the Quebec frontier on the east, and the Montreal River to the west. Here it is broken by 25 miles of mining country, containing the Dane and Swastika Districts. Thence the land is nearly all good to Cochrane, the most northerly railway point. Beyond this a tract of good agricultural land, of about 100 miles, reaches all the way to the benches. Mr. T. B. Speigh, President of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, estimates that, after making deduction for sandy and gravelly areas in certain localities, from 65% to 75% of the clay belt is good farm land, and that comprehensive draining will make a considerable addition. The whole area is estimated at over 16 million acres.

Climate. The summers are hot and the winters cold, but dry. Summer frosts are rare. The crops ripen more rapidly than in the south, owing to longer hours of sunlight. South of Cochrane, the average date of last frost is June 1st; first frost, September 11th. The mean annual temperature at Haileybury, on the Quebec Boundary, is 36.8°. Average annual precipitation, 31.77 inches. At Kenora, on the Manitoba Boundary, mean annual temperature 35.5°. Average annual precipitation, 22.14 inches.

LATITUDE. Cochrane, the present northern terminus of the T. & N.O. Railway, lies on the 49th parallel, i.e.,