

THE FOREST RESOURCES OF THE LABRADOR PENINSULA.

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The Labrador Peninsula has an approximate area of 560,000 square miles—two and a third times that of the Province of Ontario, or 65% of that part of the United States lying east of the Mississippi River. The interior of this vast territory has always been beyond the line of accurate knowledge, and previous to the explorations of Mr. A. P. Low, B.Ap.Sc., of the Geological Survey of Canada, not one-tenth of it had ever been properly mapped.

In 1892 it was my good fortune to accompany Mr. Low, as botanist and assistant surveyor, in his exploration of the East Main River, which rises near the centre of the peninsula and flows west into James Bay. In four months we journeyed more than thirteen hundred miles in canoes, and did 368 miles of geological and micrometer survey work.

The peninsula is roughly pentagonal in form, being bounded on the south by the Saguenay, Chamouchuan, Waswanipi and Nottoway Rivers; on the west by James Bay and Hudson Bay; on the north by Hudson Strait; on the north-east by the Atlantic Ocean; and on the south-east by the St. Lawrence. The size of this immense peninsula may be judged from the fact that the air line distance between Cape Wolstenholme at the extreme mouth of the Saguenay River is 1,040 miles, whilst Belle Isle is a trifle over a thousand miles from the mouth of the Nottoway River. From the mouth of the Nottoway to Ungava Bay is as far as from Ottawa to Port Arthur; and from Ungava Bay to the nearest point on the St. Lawrence is as far as from Ottawa to Halifax.

In 1893 Mr. Low and his assistants explored the Kaniapiskau and Koksoak Rivers flowing north into Ungava Bay; in 1894, the Hamilton River, flowing east into Hamilton Inlet; in 1895, the Manikuegan River, from Summit Lake southward to the St. Lawrence; and in 1896, the line was carried across from Richmond Gulf to Ungava Bay by way of the Clearwater, Stillwater, Larch and Koksoak Rivers. Mr. Low's reports upon the geology, climate, fauna and flora of the regions traversed show that the peninsula is not by any means the barren, worthless country it was once supposed to be. Its resources in the way of minerals, timber and fish are simply enormous, and if properly protected from exploitation will be a source of great wealth to the nation. This explains why the Province of Quebec lost no time in having its