

TEMISKAMING A LAND OF PROMISE

The Eighth Letter from Farm and Dairy's Editorial Representative in New Ontario.

Someone has said that Temiskaming is the greatest corner of the terrestrial globe. The richest silver mines ever discovered, the vast deposits of gold, the prolific forests that have made the Ottawa famous, the proven agricultural lands upon which the eyes of the East are turning are proof sufficient of the veracity of the author and truth of the statement.

New Ontario is the oldest part of North America if not the first land in the world to rise above the sea. The hills that are now so interesting to geologist and prospector alike, probably when young, rivalled the Rockies in height and ruggedness but years of exposure to rain, frost and the erosion of running water have reduced them to low round-topped hills. But in these stumps are to be found the richest mineral deposits in the world. There is no doubt about that.

But what has that to do with agriculture? Just this. As the mountains were slowly worn away by the untiring atmospheric agents the rock was ground into a fine sand and deposited on the land north of the bare rocky part today from the North to Cobalt is a vast area principally rock, but from the Silver City or a few miles beyond it and stretching away to the North in the shape of a great V lies the Great Clay Belt, a land of twenty million acres of virgin soil proved to be more productive than that of Old Ontario, a land of vast forests and of lakes and great rivers. It is a rich heritage, a land of promise beside which the land of sacred history is small indeed.

TEMISKAMING'S ADVANTAGES

The soil is an alluvial clay, light brown or black. To one accustomed to the behaviour of clay in Old Ontario the action of this northern material is indeed surprising. Under the influence of the sun, and mois-

ture it readily breaks up into a fine seed bed. On the surface of all farms there will be found a few inches of black vegetable mould which is plowed up and assimilated with the rich clay loam. It makes one of the best soils that could be produced.

The climate is much like that in Old Ontario. The winters are severe but the dryness of the atmosphere prevents the cold from being unpleasantly felt. The snow is usually from two to three feet in depth. At times it is very warm in summer.

In considering the matter of taking up land there are three principal points that a farmer will consider, soil, climate and markets. In the demands of timbering, mining and prospecting the settler has a rapidly increasing home market for all the farm and garden produce he can supply and prices are very high. Indeed the demand is eagerly made at his door and cannot be met so that much has to be imported. The time when the Clay Belt becomes an exporting country, that is, when it seeks the market on the seaboard, is not near. New settlements farther north and on the Transcontinental Railroad will absorb all that can be produced.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Another advantage is found in the transportation facilities. Rarely if ever in the history of the settlement of a new country has a railroad played such an important part as does the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railroad, owned and operated by the Ontario Government in the settlement of the agricultural section of New Ontario. Starting at North Bay it threads its way up rocky valleys and around numerous lakes that hide their silvery surfaces deep among the thousand hills. Leaving the rocky country at Haileybury, a few miles above Cobalt, it extends north across the rolling, forest clad acres

to its terminus at Cochrane, 252 miles north of North Bay and 480 miles north of Toronto. In addition the Transcontinental is under construction from Lake Abitibi to Lake Nipigon and the Canadian Northern will shortly build a loop from Sudbury to the Nipigon River. The prospect is that both those roads will be flanked by prosperous communities of settlers.

The necessity of clearing the land is offset by the fact that in this encumbrance lies an ample source of revenue valuable to the settler during the years he is getting his place in shape. In many cases the pulp wood taken off a farm has much more than paid for the clearing of it. The settler can hire all the work done and yet it costs him never a cent; but this cannot be done in all parts of the country. Usually he must work himself.

The forests of New Ontario are entirely different to those of Old Ontario in so much that the trees are all small and their roots spread out near the surface of the ground. No stumping machines or dynamite are required in clearing a farm. If the stumps are allowed to remain in the ground a few years after cutting the trees, a single horse can pull them with little or no difficulty according to the locality, as the timber is heavier on the higher levels.

CROPS UNSUCCESSFUL. Generally speaking it may be said that with the exception of the lighter fruits everything grown in Old Ontario may all be produced in the New Country. Clover and timothy hay do especially well. The yield is commonly three tons to the acre. Wheat, oats, barley and peas also do well while the soil and climate seem particularly suited to root crops.

It is true the season is shorter but compensation is made by the fact that the days are from one to two hours longer than in the south. At Cochrane the sun stays on the job 19 hours a day which accounts for the almost incredible growth.

Some one has said: "Go west young man, go west." That is good advice but "Go north, young man, go north," is much better. Temiskaming offers advantages unrivalled the world over. It is only a matter of a few years before The Great Clay Belt in New Ontario will be the Garden of Canada.

The mining possibilities, like the agricultural ones, are unlimited. The surface has, so to speak, merely been scratched and the silver, gold and iron are scattered in an index of buried treasure that has been carefully laid away by the tireless hand of the ages.

The last two years have seen as great a change as did the previous decade and everything points to an even more phenomenal development during the coming few years. In no other country are conditions so conducive to rapid growth. Where else are the consumer and producer so close neighbors? There is indeed a wonderful future in store for Temiskaming. —Colin W. Lees.

Farmers Dubious about Hogs

Notwithstanding the extraordinary high level of prices that has prevailed during the past year, it is doubtful if there is much if any increase in the number of hogs being produced in Ontario as compared with one year ago or two years ago. Various reasons are ascribed as to why there is not a more general increased production. From many quarters is expressed the fear that it will be only a short time, if many hogs are produced, until they will be selling again at low prices. Feeding stuffs of all kinds have been high in price, hence there is not a great margin of profit in pork production even at current market prices. All products of a farm find a ready market, but the price are high everything else is equally so and it seems that producers prefer to leave hogs alone for the time being at least.

WILL PRICES HOLD?

The prevailing feeling in this matter is well expressed in a letter from Wilbur Lemon, Wentworth Co., Ont. He writes: "There will not be any more hogs for market this fall and winter than there were last year; it may be, not so many. Farmers, who used to keep three or four brood sows now are keeping only one or two. They are talking of not keeping any more for a while until they see how prices will run for a year or so."

Another feeling which seems quite general is expressed by Mr. D. C. Platt, of Millgrove, Ont. He writes Farm and Dairy as follows: "The high prices paid for hogs do not seem to have any influence with the farmers of this section. They say they have been caught too often and if they went back to the hog business they would, as they once did, history would only repeat itself. All the hogs that the farmers are raising here would not supply the local demand."

HOLD HOGS FROM A YEAR AGO

All farmers are of this mind, however. Mr. Alonso B. Edwards, Ontario Co., writes: "Some farmers seem to be increasing their number of brood sows, but the number of shipping hogs do not seem to increase very much, however. The demand is so great that the pigs are disposed of just as quickly as possible. There are perhaps 50 per cent. more hogs in this district today than a year ago. It is the general thought of most farmers that pork is going to remain good for some time. Many think that it will be a long time before pork gets down again to \$6 a cwt."

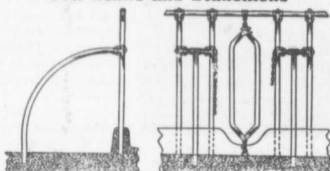
Some of the packers were written to for information as to the number of hogs being marketed. In reply to Farm and Dairy, Mr. J. W. Flavel, of the Wm. Davies Co., writes: "We

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