

There is a big seam near Black bay, and you can follow it up right along until it comes to an island. That is a very good country for gold, and there have been several attempts to make something out of it, but the time is not ripe. The priests up there are of the Oblat order.

There are indications of iron along the Clearwater river. Witness found some very nice pieces of iron, and he found limestone in the centre of Athabaska.

Once in the Peace river district, on the way from Lake Chippewyan, witness found a deposit of red stone, he did not know whether it was ochre or hematite of iron. He had any amount of it, but upset with his canoe and lost it.

A large amount of ochre is found on the eastern bank of the Athabaska, between Athabaska Landing and Grand Rapids. Witness had also observed what seemed to him a large amount of hematite of iron between Athabaska Landing and the mouth of the Greater Slave river. While on the Slave river itself, at a certain point large bodies of magnetite ore are indicated by the action of the compass, which gets entirely out of order.

On the lower part of the Athabaska the limestone which is exposed all along the river is of a very good quality. There is also found clay fit for puddling and for making brick.

NATURAL GAS AND PETROLEUM.

This industry in time to come will be possible and profitable owing to the existence of natural gas, which is found in that country in steady veins. Sand of the very best quality for making glass is abundant, and this industry also is bound to come into existence and be profitable through the existence of cheap fuel, and intense heat in the shape of natural gas in the country. The development of the galena which is exposed in a large vein at Lake Athabaska, depends also on the intense heat and cheap fuel of the natural gas, and will be highly profitable when better communication is established in the country.

Mr. Von Hamerstein drew the attention of the committee to the waste of natural oil gas for the last eleven years at the government bore hole at Pelican Portage or Pelican Rapids.

A very large volume of gas was struck there by the government boring parties, and the well has never been plugged, although there have been representation made again and again. Witness considered that it would be largely in the interests of the development of the resources of that country that the well should be plugged. He considered it an actual sin to leave it as it is. It has now been escaping for eleven years. The last report to the Dominion government was made by the provincial government through the Hon. Mr. Cushing. The value of the well has been decreased tremendously in eleven years, and it is robbing the entire district of gas which may be used in the future.

The government, at the time the gas flow was struck at Pelican Rapids, was boring for petroleum. They went within 60 miles of where Mr. Hamerstein's parties are drilling now, at a depth of 860 feet, or something like that, they struck a tremendous flow of natural gas, which hindered them from boring any further. They thought the well would exhaust itself, went back the next year to resume the boring operation, and finding that the gas had not exhausted itself, they never went back after that. It is still burning. When Mr. Von Hamerstein went up in the month of June last it blew about 18 or 20 feet. About four years ago he found it was about 40 feet. That is a stream right up. It explodes with such force that not a hundredth part of the gas has a chance to be inflamed. The ground all around it has fallen in. Of course as this has been going on for eleven years, it has formed a cavity and the whole thing sinks down. There is a pipe about four feet out of the ground. It was formerly eleven.