

in strata or in alluvial deposits, of vegetal detritus and superficial deposits which constitute excellent farming land. Lakes are comparatively few in number, but this does not prevent one from easily finding everywhere inexhaustible quantities of good drinking water, by merely digging a few feet into the earth.

4. This vast territory contains at least 244,600 square miles or 161,664,000 acres of good farming land, which is susceptible of the highest degree of cultivation, both as to soil and climate, which are as good if not better than the soil and climate of the "fertile belt" of the Saskatchewan. This farming land is distributed as follows in each of the three natural divisions of the territory :

Eastern Region or East Main, 9,000 miles or 5,760,000 acres ;

Southern or James Bay Region, 170,000 miles or 108,800,000 acres ;

Western or Churchill and Nelson Rivers Region, 73,600 miles or 47,104,000 acres.

Supposing that these regions should be settled in proportion to the average area occupied in proportion by each farmer in the province of Quebec, it contains a sufficient extent of good land to support with ease and comfort, a population of 15,000,000 as to the area occupied and 31,800 as to the area under cultivation.

Taking as a basis the data supplied by the census of 1871 for the province of Quebec, each of the three regions of territory which we are now considering could support the following population :

	Souls.	Souls.
East Main Region.....	64,000	128,000
James Bay Region.....	10,880,000	21,720,000
Churchill and Nelson Rivers Region.....	4,700,400	9,426,000
Total.....	15,654,400	31,274,000

The figures in the column to the left are based upon the area occupied, and those to the right upon the area under cultivation in the province of Quebec in 1871.

5. Forests of timber, suitable for domestic use and for exportation, cover an area of at least 200,000,000 acres. As far as George or Grand River in the East Main Region and to a distance of fifty miles from the sea, on the banks of the Nelson and Hayes Rivers, there are forests with trees which may be cut into logs of twenty four inches in diameter, chiefly of white spruce. The principal timber consists of white pine, red pine, white spruce, red spruce, cypress or Banks pine, aspen poplar, fir balsam, cedar, poplar and white birch. White spruce is the most abundant and valuable ; in the three regions it forms forests which, in extent and in the size of the trees, are far superior to the forests of the same kind which we have in the Province of Quebec. Red spruce forms forests which are almost as fine, in the country situated to the South of James Bay. There are fine forests of white pine, some of red pine of lesser extent in the strip adjoining the height of land between Lake Abittibi and the sources of the Kenogami River. They are the continuation of the forests of the Upper Ottawa. Throughout the region are also to be found balsam and cedar of sufficient dimensions to be used as lumber. White birch is of great size in the vicinity of Norway House, where the Indians tap it in the spring to make syrup of its sap, just as we make sugar in Canada with the sap of our maples.

The aspen and poplar predominate in the valley of the Beaver River and Green Lake, where the trees attain colossal proportions and form fine forests. These forests might be used to advantage to obtain supplies of wood for the lumber trade.

The great areas of territory which they cover in the East Main and James Bay Regions are intersected by numerous large rivers whose course is generally free and nowhere interrupted by serious obstacles. On the majority of these rivers, logs may be floated with the greatest ease from the height of land to the sea, a distance of about three hundred miles from the most remote points. Then, from the farthest ports of James Bay the distance to English ports is not great ; it is even less than between Quebec and Liverpool, and very little more than between the chief ports of the United Kingdom and those of the Baltic sea, whence comes the greatest portion of the lumber imported into England.