

## FACTS ABOUT CLAY BELT OF NEW ONTARIO

Account Given in Report of Country from Standpoint of Agriculture, Pulpwood and Lumber

### CONDITIONS OF SOIL

The so-called clay belt in Northern Ontario and Quebec, is described in an official report, from the viewpoint of its agricultural and forest products value, as follows:—

"The country (east and west from Cochrane for about 200 miles) is slightly undulating, occasionally hilly, and sometimes, for considerable distances, flat. In spite of the many rivers and minor water courses the country is poorly drained.

"While a greater portion of the soil is of a clayey nature, the hills are largely sandy or gravelly deposits, glacial drift with small boulders, only occasionally does the rock come to, or near the surface, as exhibited in the few rock cuts on the railway line. The clay soil is however, by no means uniformly of the same character. It varies in texture, colour, character of admixtures, stratification, and chemical composition, and the depth, especially of the overlying muck or peat layers, varies, and therefore, is of varying agricultural value.

"The climate in this latitude is northern, with its usual short hot summer and long winter. Climatologically, the distribution of tree species also differentiates this section from that south of the height of land, namely, by the absence of red oak and sugar maple—a certain indication of difference of climate.

"Nevertheless, the more hardy root and grain crops mature. Abundant sunshine and sufficient rainfall during the growing season will produce excellent hay crops, and, when larger areas of the country are opened up to the warming sun, and are drained, some of the deep fertile soils may produce even less hardy crops.

### FOREST CONDITIONS.

The whole country is densely wooded. Although there are twelve or thirteen tree species, black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir, tamarack, jack pine, cedar, red pine, white pine, aspen, balsam poplar, paper birch, black ash, mountain ash, found in this northern forest, practically only two species form the bulk of the composition, giving a very uniform aspect to the country, namely, the black spruce and the aspen. The presence of any of the other species is an indication of improved drainage conditions. Next to black spruce the most frequent and most important species is the aspen polar (here called whitewood) and as the drainage improves not only does this species improve in numbers and size, but also balsam poplar (balsam poplar) white spruce and balsam fir appear. This latter, however, is not frequent. Cedar is rarely seen, and usually of poor development. Birch (paper) is also not frequent and less thrifty than the poplars. Jack pine occurs locally usually as indicative of over-drained gravelly soils, which it is apt to occupy exclusively. The next valuable of these rarer species, the white spruce, represents hardly 20 per cent of the spruces.

"The two important timber trees, white and red pine, occur in some very limited localities farther south. The sporadic occurrence of black ash is only of botanical interest.

"A very rough estimate of the occurrence of the different species would give 60 to 70 per cent to the black spruce, 10 to 15 per cent to the white spruce, about 15 to 20 per cent to the poplars and 5 per cent to the rest.

"While the country is densely wooded it is by no means all "timber." Indeed from the point of view of sawmill supplies, the woods are disappoint-

## COAL FIGURES FOR MAY MUCH LOWER THAN 1918

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues the following monthly bulletin as a survey of the output of coal in Canada for May, 1919, as compared with May, 1918. The figures are in net tons.

In addition, the imports of bituminous coal for May, 1919, were 736,426, whereas May, 1918, shows 1,437,377. The imports of anthracite coal for May, 1919, were 461,701, and May, 1918, 465,561.

Districts.	Output for month of May, 1918.	Output for month of May 1919.
Sydney .....	375,120	288,468
Inverness .....	20,385	11,059
Port Hood .....	153	576
Pictou .....	47,009	43,305
Springhill .....	46,730	43,351
Joggins .....	20,180	17,074
<b>Total for Nova Scotia .....</b>	<b>509,577</b>	<b>403,833</b>
New Brunswick .....	23,209	11,090
Saskatchewan .....	21,479	17,819
Alberta bituminous .....	255,462	187,304
Alberta anthracite .....	12,141	—
<b>Lignites.</b>		
Pincher Creek .....	142	78
Lethbridge .....	57,526	41,342
Magrath .....	13	17
Milk River .....	342	138
Taber .....	4,962	1,783
Bow Island .....	313	194
Medicine Hat .....	201	331
Aldersyde .....	375	230
High River .....	19	—
Drumheller .....	43,636	17,884
Big Valley .....	1,927	254
Brooks .....	432	257
Hanna .....	1,249	582
Lacombe .....	456	121
Trochu .....	528	257
Three Hills .....	1,531	451
Carbon .....	259	—
Battle River .....	35	10
Camrose .....	1,722	2,007
Tofield .....	2,620	3,588
Clover Bar .....	7,516	9,771
Edmonton .....	4,542	1,087
Namoo .....	950	366
Cardiff .....	6,798	2,831
Wabamun .....	556	1,048
Pembina .....	5,952	9,068
<b>Total for Alberta lignite .....</b>	<b>144,602</b>	<b>93,695</b>
<b>Grand total for Alberta .....</b>	<b>412,205</b>	<b>280,999</b>
Crowsnest .....	77,819	49,201
Inland .....	12,711	6,041
Island .....	160,989	137,553
<b>Total for British Columbia .....</b>	<b>251,519</b>	<b>192,795</b>
<b>Grand total for Canada .....</b>	<b>1,217,989</b>	<b>906,536</b>

ing. Even for pulpwood the supply is not what the uninitiated may suppose.

"The early explorers travelled by canoe, and hence, reported only the better developed timber, of large-sized spruce, aspen, balsam poplar, which skirt the rivers on the well-drained portions in quarter to half mile belts, without realizing that, in the swamps beyond this belt, the bulk of the forest growth is black spruce of small size.

"Hardly 10 to 15 per cent of the forest is of the first class, i.e. containing sizes fit for logging. From 35 to 50 per cent of the area may, by picking, furnish small-sized pulpwood. From 35 to 45 per cent of the area is, from the standpoint of wood supplies, useless; it is either muskeg, near muskeg, or scrubwood of a size hardly fit for fuel."

The above is taken from a bulletin entitled "Conditions in the Clay Belt of New Ontario," by B. E. Fernew, L.L.D., issued by the Commission of Conservation.

### NURSING SISTERS GET EXTENDED HOLIDAYS

Matrons and nurses in the service of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Establishment will in future be granted leave of absence for two weeks in every six months.

Ordinarily the civil service allowance for holidays makes provision for eighteen days' holidays in a year. This extension has, however, been made for those on the nursing staff in view of the arduous nature of their duties.

## WORK BEGUN ON TIMBER SURVEY IN ONTARIO

Commission of Conservation Forest Engineers Commence Reconnaissance Work to find out Quantity of Standing Timber in Province

### THREE YEARS' TASK

The Commission of Conservation which recently gave to the public a detailed report on the subject of the timber and pulpwood resources of British Columbia, the result of several years' work by the Commission's forestry experts, has sent the same specialists into the field to commence a survey of Ontario's forest wealth which will eventually result in a similar report, as stated by Mr. James White, Assistant to the Chairman, Commission of Conservation.

### LAND CLASSIFICATION.

In addition to estimating the amount of standing timber in Ontario, and its location, the forest land will be classified as agricultural or non-agricultural so that the areas suitable for farming may be utilized for settlement, and the areas whose soil is adapted only to tree growth may be used for the raising of forests.

For the purposes of the survey, the province will be divided into five large drainage areas. These will be the southern portion of Ontario, the Ottawa valley, the Georgian Bay district, the lake Superior region, and the north.

It is stated by the Commission that no attempt will be made to cruise the whole province to secure an inventory of the timber, since a large proportion of this is in private holdings, for which the holders have detailed cruises. To supplement the data which is available, reconnaissance work will be carried on and a party is already in the field.

### EXPERIENCED STAFF.

Mr. Roland D. Craig, F.E., of the Commission of Conservation, and late inspector of aeroplane spruce for the Munitions Board, will direct the work under the supervision of Dr. Clyde Leavitt, Chief Forester of the Commission. Mr. Craig was engaged for two years on the work of estimating the forest resources of British Columbia, in connection with the report which, as stated has just been published by the Commission. This report which enumerated the standing timber of British Columbia as 366,300 million feet board measure, was the first of a series of such reports containing the most accurate information possible to obtain, as to the extent of the forest assets of Canada.

The work of making a forest survey of Ontario is given additional importance by the fact that reliable information as to the commercial rating of the forests in the remote northern region of the province, is not available and the survey undertaken by the Commission will establish the true value of that vast district which covers in area the larger portion of the province.

### LIMIT-HOLDERS WILL AID.

Three years is the approximate length of time to be given to the work of securing, and compiling the information, and preparing the report, it is stated by officials of the Commission. The Provincial Government of Ontario will render assistance to and co-operate with the Commission in every possible way, in the work, and it is expected that limit holders and sawmill operators in the province will freely furnish the data they have, with the understanding that all figures or other information of a confidential nature will be treated as such.

## FREIGHT TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS SINCE 1875

### Annual Report of Railways and Canals has interesting Figures

The following table, from the annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals for 1918, shows the freight traffic over the railways of Canada from 1875 to 1918:—

Year	Tons of freight (2000 lbs.)
1875 .....	5,670,837
1880 .....	9,938,858
1885 .....	14,659,271
1890 .....	20,787,469
1895 .....	21,524,421
1900 .....	35,946,183
1905 .....	50,793,957
1906 .....	57,966,713
1907 .....	63,866,135
1908 .....	63,071,167
1909 .....	66,842,258
1910 .....	74,482,866
1911 .....	79,884,282
1912 .....	89,444,331
1913 .....	106,992,710
1914 .....	106,393,989
1915 .....	87,204,833
1916 .....	109,659,088
1917 .....	121,916,272
1918 .....	127,543,687

Are you a W.S.S. saver?