

That is valuable information given by an Indian in that country. He does not tell us where this is but it is important that we should know it because we are going to build a railway there. Then we come to the question of rock exposure. There are few rocks:

Probably in no part of Canada is there a smaller proportion of rock exposed at the surface than in the low belt of country south of James bay, and very few parts with so little bare rock as the second plateau or belt. In the third plateau, or that which constitutes the height of land, the proportion of rock is greater,—

And yet they are going to cross the height of land nine times and to open up a country with an alluvial soil, well fitted for agricultural purposes where the people can go in and have happy homes and rich farms and cultivate everything that will grow either in Ontario or Quebec. But he says:

—and here the possibilities of finding the metallic ores associated with or contained in the Laurentian or Huronian rocks, may be about as good as they are on the north shore of Lake Huron.

Now we know what the north shore of Lake Huron is that it is practically an uninhabited belt, a mineral belt it is true, but this report says that the height of land is the same and that the rocks are there in larger proportion than in the lower plateaus, and we are told in the same report that this railway is to cross the height of land nine times.

I can only say that in hurrying across this height of land (as I was obliged to do) I did not happen to see any. I heard reports, however, (originating with the Indians) that some such ores may be found in the vicinity of Lac Seul, and I do not think it by any means improbable.

That is valuable information got from an Indian second-hand. It is like the fables of the ancients; it is got second-hand, but it is a valuable thing to know. Then he says:

I saw and examined the deposit of brown hematite and spathic ore at the Grand rapid on the Mattagami river. This has been previously visited and described by Dr. Bell, and a specimen brought back by him was assayed by Mr. Hoffmann of the Geological Survey and reported to contain upwards of fifty-two per cent of metallic iron. I found this iron ore, as it seemed to me in the form of lenticular masses or beds interposed between the limestone strata of the Devonian rocks, which appear in place here for the first time as we descend the river.

It is very important that we should know that we have good iron beds there, because it may enable us to attach greater value to the country.

Then there is the temperature, the report gives us that:

Those who think that the weather is always raw and cold on the coast of James bay, may be surprised to learn that a few days before my arrival at Moose Factory, the thermometer

recorded nearly 92° of heat in the shade. As this is one of the stations for taking meteorological observations, both the instrument and the reading was doubtless correct. At Albany, I was assured by Mr. Broughton that it was 94° in the shade.

And of course the House should know it. At Moose Factory on James bay it was 92 degrees and at Albany 94 degrees. Of course we should know that, because it will help us very much in building the railway. Then we have this third plateau and its soil and climate:

It is only from observations recorded at the Hudson Bay Company's posts, from the statements of parties who either live or have lived in the country, and from our limited experience, that we can obtain any knowledge of the climate of the two latter divisions of this territory. As regards the crops which may or may not grow in the territory, much contradictory evidence has been given. Neither is the climate the same in all parts of the territory.

That is contradictory, it does not correspond with the information given by the right hon. gentleman, that we are going to open up such a valuable tract of land for settlement by the farmers of this country.

On suitable soil properly prepared, and with judiciously selected seed, I am of opinion that wheat, oats, barley, and possibly rye, may be grown with more or less success on the second belt or plateau.

Then he talks about the hilly country and the drift covered regions. Dr. Bell has spoken of this. The report says:

As Dr. Bell very justly remarks, the surface, even in the height of land, is almost always covered with loose material of some kind. On this second plateau, the loose material still consists of drab or light-coloured clays, overlaid occasionally by gravel or sand. In these clays, as already remarked, pieces of limestone from the Devonian strata to the north may always be found, decreasing, however, in size and number as we recede from James bay and ascend toward the height of land. I am of opinion that careful analysis and microscopic examinations of the gravels, sands and clays found on or about the height of land would probably throw some light on their origin.

That a very large proportion of the clay and other loose materials found on this upper plateau must have come from the north and that it has been carried or transported in some mysterious way up hill, partly from the shores of the Hudson bay, and partly from the lower plateau, admits almost of demonstration.

It is necessary that the House should know where that clay comes from. It must come from the region of Hudson bay, because we have a suggestion advanced as to where it comes from. Then he talks about peat, about the Laurentian rocks and about the catch of fish, pickerel and pike. He says:

Pike, pickerel and white fish are found in the rivers in limited quantity, and the last is caught in the bay along the coast. Sturgeon are caught in the Abitibi river, two of which I saw near Singed Marten creek.

We all want to know that we can get pike, pickerel and white fish in this country.