

Mountain-
ous.

The reports of the surveyors show this territory to be more or less mountainous throughout. Near the gulf the summits of the ranges rise occasionally from 1,000 and 1,300 to 1,700 feet in height, and the plateau at the watershed is from 1,500 to 1,700 feet in height, with mountain summit near the sources of the River Moisie, the Outarde River, and the Manicouagan of 3,000 and 3,700 feet above the level of the sea.

Moderate
river im-
provements
wanted.
Large birch,
spruce and
larch on
parts.

Much expenditure in improvements would be necessary to make these rivers and others of this territory fit for the descent of square timber, but much less would be required for getting out saw logs, and they will no doubt ultimately be got out with profit, and probably flatted tamarac and spruce. Both are to be found occasionally of a fair size even in the northern parts of this territory. Professor Hind on descending a hill, burnt bare above, passed through a luxuriant forest of birch, spruce, and larch trees of a size that would have done credit to Western Canada, and a little before that he found "birch of a fine growth not less than 15 inches in diameter at an elevation of not less than 1,700 feet, and a belt of spruce, some very fine, that averaged 18 inches in diameter;" on the other hand he speaks elsewhere of the trees being generally stunted further south (about latitude 51° north), and of the great brûlé extending to the plateau of Labrador.

Manicouagan
section.
Large spruce
on parts,
elsewhere
timber
stunted.

At top of the Ridge Lake he speaks of distant mountains of great height (with well wooded valleys between) on which vegetation ceases at two thirds up their sides.

The River
Outarde.
Poorly
wooded.
Rear parts
may be found
better as in
other cases.

On the River Outarde Mr. Bignell reports the timber to be fir, spruce, bouleau, aspen, and cypress for 200 miles up from the coast, and beyond that the timber was small black spruce to its source near the height of land. The general character of the timber here shown is not favourable, but we know that the timber on the tributaries of some rivers is better and more abundant than on the main rivers, and I have known extensive timber limits rejected on first exploration as worthless, and wooded only with poplar and birch, that afterwards, when better known, commanded fair prices for timber found on them.

Manicouagan
and Outarde
are twin
rivers in
position and
character.

The River Manicouagan is a twin river to the Outarde. Their mouths and their sources are adjoining respectively.

River
Manicouagan
valley fit for
settlement
in parts.

The timber on them is much alike, only pine is mentioned as occurring occasionally on the lower and middle course of the Manicouagan, the banks of it are more rugged and it flows in a lower bed, which may perhaps be the cause of some appearance of pine, and also of frost in the fall not setting in early which would admit of grain and root crops being raised on some tracts of good land upon its banks. Beyond the long lakes on its two upper branches the timber is only small spruce and tamarac up to the height of land.

River
Pentecote
has better
land and
timbers.

On the River Pentecote, which enters the gulf 65 miles north-eastward of the Manicouagan, though the country is mountainous, there is more good land along the river than on the Manicouagan and the timber is better; (some very fine) spruce and tamarac along its course of 80 miles with a little pine near the coast, and the land and timber seems even better on the Trinité, which enters half way between the Pentecote and the Manicouagan, and more pine is to be found on it as reported by Mr. Bignell.

River
Trinité still
better.

This territory and the one described before it form together the less known, inferiorly wooded and comparatively untouched, as yet, portion of the vast forest region of the province of Quebec. They embrace an area of about 80,460 square miles. The general inferiority, and (in) parts, absence of timber, is due to the poverty and shallowness and in parts to the entire absence of soil where successive fires have burned off the thin covering of vegetable matter from the rocks, and not the coldness of the climate, which is really most suitable for the growth of spruce, and fairly so for tamarac.

Area of
Manicouagan
section and
general
characters.
General
character of
the Gulf and
Manicouagan
sections un-
favourable in
many parts.

The thinness of the coating of vegetable matter over the rocks in parts of these two territories causes it to dry up in hot weather and become exceedingly combustible, greatly aggravating the tendency to wide-spreading forest fires, while the absence of moisture stunts the growth of the trees, such parts of these two territories will necessarily always be unfavourable for the growth of wood; but in the other parts of them, forming the greater part of their area, where the soil is more generally sufficient to sustain even a moderate growth of wood of kinds there prevalent, great quantities of it will, no doubt, be taken out with profit for purposes for which such timber, though generally small, may be serviceable as the timber of more favourable forests becomes scarce and high in price.

Great
Central
section
behind the
old settle-
ments.

The next great portion of the northern forest region of the province of Quebec it may be convenient to take a view of as a whole, is that commencing at a north-westerly line from the mouth of the River Manicouagan, and extending westward to the eastern watershed of the River Gatineau, including the Saguenay, the St. Maurice, and the Lower