

The north-west corner of the district for present purposes may be classed as without a sufficient soil for agriculture. This may roughly be outlined as being composed of all the country lying to the west of a line from the outlet of Burntwood lake to that of Reed lake, and north of the escarpment which shows the northern limit of the Trenton limestone. In this the surface is rolling and hilly, the rocky ridges having a scanty coating of boulder clay and an occasional thicker deposit in the depressions. It will probably remain the home of the hunter and the trapper.

Area
unsuited for
agriculture.

To the south the country underlain by limestone has many of the characters of the northern part of Manitoba. In the valley of the Saskatchewan there are large areas of rich soil formed principally by the river itself which has brought down an enormous amount of silt from the upper part of its valley.

The western part of the valley of the Nelson river is covered by a thick lacustral deposit which reaches west to Burntwood lake and east to the channel of Nelson river. In this area good soil is found in almost every part and where drained would no doubt make fair farming land.

Timber.

In the southern part of the district, spruce of both the white and black species is found of fair diameter, but in going north the size materially decreases. Over the major portion of the rocky country Banksian pine is the principal tree, which though not large enough in general for timber, might in the future be of use for pulp wood.

Peat.

Reference has been already made to the deposit of peat north of Lake Winnipeg, and when a process for preparing this for fuel has been perfected this deposit may perhaps be utilized.

Minerals.

The several large areas of Huronian rocks which are here partly outlined will at some future time be thoroughly prospected, and, as has been the case in nearly all such areas, ores of the useful and precious metals are likely to be found. As it is at present a very hasty visit has shown that many quartz veins and intrusive dyke cut these rocks, and indications of the precious metals are not

Minerals.