

Witness went down the Nelson river and north to Churchill. The general character of the country from James bay further north is good, agriculturally. The country from Split lake rises to Wabishkok about 200 feet. That is about 30 miles in a straight line.

Besides potatoes, witness had seen turnips, cabbage, and lettuce growing, and all appeared to be very good. The potato vines in September were touched with frost rather severely. The potatoes were taken up on August 23 and 25, 1906.

The witness stated that he had been up near the head of Lake Winnipeg, where the river leaves the lake. There is good agricultural land around there. He never had such good potatoes as at Cross lake. He did not see them growing, but had them in June and also in September. The June potatoes would be the previous crop, and the September ones possibly the new crop. They do not grow any grain there. They have no cattle. There are no settlers in there. The Hudson Bay factor raised the potatoes. He had just enough to keep his own family. He had them in three or four different quarters. Witness saw lettuce and turnips growing at Churchill. They attempted to grow some potatoes, but he did not think they made a success of it last year, but if the potatoes were planted and taken care of they would mature at Churchill.

#### FORESTRY.

In his trip in 1906, the only timber Mr. O'Sullivan saw was at Split lake—spruce, poplar, white birch, from 4 to 18 inches in diameter. The country between there and Big lake is of course a swampy country, black spruce swamp, small spruce averaging four and six inches in diameter. It would make good pulp wood, and then around Wabishkok you get the same birch and white spruce and so on. They are a little larger, as large as six to eighteen inches in some places. You get isolated groves like that. The black spruce would average in the nice terraces, and level clay slopes from the lake, to about 18 inches. They grow that size and more. North of that, between there and the tree limit or the open barren ground, the country has been run over by fire, about 40 years ago, and probably, there was another fire which occurred about five years ago, so there are no trees. The moment that you leave going down the Little Churchill there are no trees to be seen on the heights except on the valleys of the river you get bunches of spruce and poplar which escaped the fire. These spruce and poplars which are in the valleys are sometimes twenty inches in diameter.

The cottonwood grows to about 14 inches. It is tall and very healthy looking. The spruce trees grow pretty long, and quite a number of saw logs could be taken out of each tree. The soil is pretty good, but the area is small. Once you leave the Big lake, all the way down there is no timber at all. In the valleys of all the streams there is timber, bunches of spruce and tamarack.

At the Big Churchill the clay hills are mostly covered with moss. It has been burned over, and you find good large spruce in the valleys of the Little Churchill river away up to about 18 or 20 inches in diameter. But they are very few. They are all very healthy looking trees. In the small scrub tree you get the limbs down to about three feet from the ground.

The northern limit of spruce is 56:47 latitude north. Beyond that you get into the barren lands.

About half way down the Deer river we come to the open barren grounds which consist of moss, averaging one to two feet thick. You meet a lot of those small lakes, and as you approach them you get this moss. You often get five or six feet of this peaty moss overlying the ice. Receding from these small lakes or ponds you come on to the ridges, which are practically all level plain. A great many of these lakes have no outlet.

The slope of the country is so uniform and gradual that there are no steep falls, and you could never develop any power. The Big Churchill is too swift to ascend.