

ITS SOIL, TIMBER,
CLIMATE AND
AGRICULTURAL
POSSIBILITIES.



INTERVIEWS WITH SUCCESSFUL SETTLERS.

THE
TEMISCAMINGUE
COUNTRY.

Series of Articles Written by a Staff Corres-
pondent of The Mail and Empire,

WHO ACCOMPANIED, IN JUNE, 1901,

THE LAND-
SEEKERS'
EXCURSION

ARRANGED BY THE
ONTARIO
GOVERNMENT.

REPRINTED FROM THE MAIL AND EMPIRE.



NATIONAL LIBRARY
CANADA
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE

THE TEMISCAMINGUE COUNTRY.

THE START FOR TEMISCAMINGUE.

The C.P.R. train which pulled out of Toronto Union Station at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning, May 28, had on board a party of 80 land-seekers, prospective settlers for that part of New Ontario known as the Lake Temiscamingue district. This number was added to at every point along the line, and when the train left Carleton Junction the total number of land-seekers was about 160. The party was in charge of Mr. Thomas Southworth, director of colonization for Ontario, and the arrangements for the comfort of all on board were in the capable hands of Mr. W. T. Dockrill, traveling passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who carried out every detail perfectly.

The party, which, of course, was composed entirely of men, represented every part of the province from Windsor to Ottawa. About as many came from west of Toronto as from the east, while the number whose tickets read from the city itself was 52.

When the Yukon fever was on, a great howl went up from the tenderfeet from the cities of the United States and Europe, who went out to face the Arctic winter in a pair of patent-leather toothpick shoes, and a Christie stiff hat. There were no such men in the party going to Temiscamingue.

A look over the cars showed a "husky" lot of men, mostly young, with a fair sprinkling of men of middle age. As a rule the members of the party were farm laborers, farmers of rented land and farmers who need more land for their sons and growing families. There was also a number of blacksmiths and carpenters, while a characteristic of the party was the presence of a number of men, who some years ago worked on farms, but who of late have been employed as section men on railways and workers about factories in cities. There were few, if any, street railway employes, but a delegation of these men went into Temiscamingue early in the spring, and if their start proves satisfactory, others will go in the fall.

BETTER THAN \$40 PER MONTH.

Talking with these men brought out the fact that they had become convinced that it would pay better for them to tackle a bush farm, which, in a few years, would be their own, than to live on from year to year in a city on \$40 per month without making any advance.

Another striking feature of the party was the extensive knowledge which practically everyone had of the country to which they were going. They had not only read all the available literature on the subject; they not only knew what the explorers and the professors of Guelph Agricultural College had to say

THE TEMISCAMINGUE COUNTRY.

2

about the country, the timber, and the quality of the soil, but they, in most cases, had gone across their township or to the next town to see some missionary, friend, or relative who had been in the Temiscamingue and got a direct personal account of the new land. They had a better idea of areas and distances than most people of Ontario have in regard to this country, and knew that the area of the land in the Temiscamingue district marked good by the explorers was as great as the twenty-two counties of Ontario lying west of Toronto and south of Georgian Bay. They also knew that the distance from Toronto to New Liskeard, at the entrance to the district, as the crow flies, was about three hundred miles.

A good many of the men were going in with the idea that they would not come back to Southern Ontario again. Men were to be found who had half a dozen axes with them, a chest of carpenter's tools, or a blacksmith's outfit. They expected to go right in, pick out their quarter section (160 acres), and then turn their hands to whatever work they could obtain until they were able to get their first clearing done, and their first crop taken off. As some put it, "Unless it is a very different country to what we have been led to expect we will never come out again."

Another striking fact which was observable in the whole party was that not one man was being driven into New Ontario by stress of circumstances. They were all energetic, thinking men who were going to New Ontario because they believed they could better their condition, not because they had failed in old Ontario.

THEY LIKE THE TIMBER COUNTRY.

Most of the men in looking about to find what they consider the best place to make their start in life had traveled over a good deal of the country, and had seen in many instances the Western States and Manitoba. As compared with the Prairie States and provinces, New Ontario was preferred by these men because it was a timber country, a country furnishing building material, fencing and fuel; a country covered with trees which they believed could be made, by the man whose capital was chiefly his hands, to yield a dividend right from the start, in the form of pulp wood and railroad ties.

Everyone who was spoken to by The Mail and Empire correspondent stated that he expected a good hard fight for it, but that he was prepared, and was going to win. Every day, in the counties from which they came, they went out to put in a solid day's work, and at the end of the year they were not so much further ahead than at the beginning, and they hoped that by putting forth a little extra effort and by enduring some privations now they would in a few years be in the possession of resources that would effectually place them and their families beyond the reach of want.

PICKING A LOCATION.

The majority of the party did not expect to stay out longer than the time allowed on this excursion. They expected to spend all the time allowed, two weeks, in "footing it" over the country in order to select the most suitable homestead, and then, having secured their location, they expected to come back to Southern Ontario to take off the crop, wind up their affairs, and start into the north in the fall. There was a large percentage of married men, and most of them expected to start in early enough in the fall to take in their families.

THE TEMISCAMINGUE COUNTRY,

A proportion of the party were "well-fixed" farmers and merchants who were going up to look at the country as a place where their sons or nephews could make a start.

Taking it altogether it was hardly possible to imagine a party of men better fitted by education, nationality, and hard, active outdoor labor, for the work of building up a new province on the broad fields looking toward James Bay.

One of their chief concerns was the railway, and they earnestly debated the likelihood of its early going in and whether it would start north from North Bay or from Mattawa. The railway was looked upon as an absolute necessity, in that in no other way could a market for bulky articles be provided.

The land in this district is surveyed on what is known as the checker-board system, in "sections," a mile square. Each section is sub-divided into "quarter-sections" 160 acres each, and 35 sections (six miles each way) form a township. Each settler is allowed to purchase 160 acres for himself, and also for each son over 18 years old, but no more land than this will be sold to one man. The price is 50 cents per acre, and settlement duties, which consist of building a house 16 x 18, and of clearing at least two acres per year till sixteen acres are cleared, but titles may be obtained in four years, if all the settlement duties have been performed. It is to be noted that all the titles issued in these new districts are under the Torrens' system, which is the system which is steadily growing in favor all over the Anglo-Saxon world.

This opening up of New Ontario, while it attracts very little attention and seems a very prosaic undertaking, is yet one of those events which awakens in the heart of the Briton that feeling of initiating and constructing power that animated the founders of Virginia and Upper Canada and Queensland and Cape Colony; and another evidence of that colonizing spirit which has caused English to be spoken in every part of the globe, and made Great Britain the greatest colonizing power in the history of the world.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

The land-seekers' excursion arrived at New Liskeard in Temiscamingue district on the evening of May 29, after a journey in which the weather clerk did his best to set at naught the efforts of those who had the arrangements in hand, and who planned everything thoroughly in advance. Owing to the large excursion it was feared that to add the special cars to the regular westbound train from Carleton Junction would delay it, and consequently the C.P.R. very considerably sent out a special which left Carleton Junction at midnight and landed the party in Mattawa in time for breakfast. The train ran out at 9 o'clock, and in a few minutes the land-seekers had crossed the Ottawa River, and were traveling up along the Quebec bank of the same toward Lake Temiscamingue, which is really a widening of the same river. This was a run of 28 miles to Temiscamingue Station, and it was through a series of magnificent views of the Ottawa, with its series of rapids after rapids, its rushing branch streams, and its banks two hundred feet high clothed in green, generally the green of the forest trees, from top to bottom.

The scenery here surpasses any conception that the dwellers of Old Ontario have formed of it, and it is only natural to find that the Upper Ottawa, and the Temiscamingue and Temiscamingue country is becoming more and more the resort of tourists. There is every reason why it should be so, for there is the convenience of access, the completeness of railway and steamboat service,

the good hotels, while through it all runs the majestic Ottawa with its great lumber trade, its record of risk and daring on the part of its army of log-drivers, and its flavor of romance and mystery, which inspired the 'muse of Thomas Moore, and gave us the 'Canadian Boat Song.'

Temiscamingue Village, at the end of the railway, consists of a station, a mill, and store, a few houses, and one hotel, but it is a place where visitors can find first-class accomodation, and from which boat trips up the lake can be taken to several towns on the Quebec side, and to the Temiscamingue country. The excursionists were accommodated in the steamer Meteor, of the Lumsden line, which carried the whole party with ease. To those who have not given the matter attention the knowledge that there are several good passenger steamers on this lake will come as a surprise. The Meteor is 136 feet long, 27 feet beam, fitted with state-rooms, electric lights, and large and comfortable dining-rooms and cabins.

Cold, damp weather had been following the excursionists from the start, and on Wednesday morning a cold, steady drizzle set in which lasted all day. The rain rendered sight-seeing unpleasant, and practical sight-seeing—to spy out the land—was what the excursion was advertised for.

Lake Temiscamingue at the south end is about half a mile wide, with shores formed of high rolling hills, stretching back into the country behind. The land-seekers admitted the beauty of the lake, but shook their heads at the high hills, which were not a good advertisement for agricultural land. The steady rain of the afternoon drove the excursionists indoors, and an impromptu concert was organized. This showed that there was plenty of talent in the party of land-seekers, and that the record of Temiscamingue for having an intelligent, progressive, and educated population would be fully sustained by those going in.

There were some unexpected delays, and it was dark before Haileybury and New Liskeard were reached, but it was noticed that in the last hour of the trip a considerable change had taken place in the character of the country, and that the shores were much flatter, and the country apparently more suitable for farming. The final settlement of this question in the minds of the excursionists was the work cut out for the next few days.

NEED OF A RAILWAY.

The land-seekers' excursion to the Lake Temiscamingue district brought out the need of additional railway communication in the most pronounced way. To go from Toronto to Mattawa and Haileybury, or New Liskeard, the beginning of the district by way of Carleton Junction, is to go round two sides of a triangle instead of going directly along one side. In this triangle Toronto is at the southern extremity, and almost due north of it is the Temiscamingue district, while almost as far to the east is Carleton Junction. Had there been a line of railway from North Bay to Temiscamingue, a distance of 90 miles, the total distance from Toronto to the heart of the Lake Temiscamingue district would be 317 miles. The present method, however, involves a railway journey around the two sides of the triangle via Carleton Junction (only 23 miles west of Ottawa) of 436 miles, and a steamer trip of 68 miles up Lake Temiscamingue.

As people best get a grasp of locations and distances by the use of general terms and comparisons, it may be stated that the Temiscamingue country, which is said to contain as much arable land as all old Ontario west of Toronto, is

THE TEMISCAMINGUE COUNTRY.

situated due north of Toronto, and from 315 to 350 miles distant. The road from Toronto to North Bay makes an almost bee-line for Lake Temiscamingue District, and 90 or 100 miles more of railway would put Toronto merchants in direct contact with the new district, and give the shortest possible line out for the settlers' products.

Everybody knows that the main branch of the Ottawa River, speaking in a general way, rises in the country north of Georgian Bay, and flows in a south-easterly direction to Ottawa City and Montreal. It is also well known that the Ottawa throughout nearly the whole of its course is the dividing line between Ontario and Quebec. Lake Temiscamingue is a broad part of the Ottawa River about 80 miles long and from three-quarters of a mile to nine miles wide. The only method at present of getting into the Temiscamingue district is to go by rail to the south-eastern end of Lake Temiscamingue, go up the lake by steamer, and strike into the district westward from the Quebec side. That is to say, the only entrance at present to this great stretch of country is from the extreme eastern edge of the province and from the Ottawa River, which river has been for many years the great highway from the Ottawa Valley to Ottawa and Montreal.

All, of course, feel that a railway is an absolute necessity, but it is also the general opinion that the railway should be built from a point north of Toronto, both to serve the district to the best advantage, and also to give the trade to be developed to the capital of the province, and not to a city outside the province.

THE EXCURSIONISTS WELCOMED.

The excursion which left Toronto under Mr. Southworth on Tuesday morning, May 28th, reached New Liskeard on Wednesday evening. New Liskeard and Halleybury, seven miles distant, are the only two centres of population in Temiscamingue. The population of the former is about three hundred, and of the latter somewhat less. The steamer Meteor, of the Lumsden line, which carried up the party, landed them on the bank of the Wahbe River, in the heart of the town. An actual count of the party showed that there were 162 land-seekers. The steamer was received by all the inhabitants of the new metropolis, the ladies coming down to the landing as well as the men, in spite of the fact that a steady rain during the day allowed everybody to judge of the adhesive qualities of that soil upon which everything depended. When the party landed Rev. F. C. Pitts, chairman of the Reception Committee, and one of the leading citizens of New Ontario, mounted the rail of the steamer and made a brief speech in which, on behalf of all residents, he welcomed the new arrivals. He told them that preparations had been made to accommodate them during their stay in New Liskeard, and that guides would be provided to take them without delay to spy out the land, and he hoped that everyone present would be satisfied with the country and decide to stay.

This practical address was received with three cheers, and the other members of the committee proceeded to look after the comfort of the new arrivals. As hotel accommodation, strictly so called, was unknown in New Liskeard, Mr. Southworth had arranged to have a steamer out of commission fitted up with bunks; and in these, with the aid of their own blankets and blankets supplied, the land-seekers passed a very comfortable night. Before turning in, however, every man had arranged with Mr. Southworth and Crown Lands Agent John Armstrong for the guide to pilot him out in the morning. Most

of the land-seekers had an idea of the district in which they wished to locate, and consequently they went in parties of from six to a dozen with one guide.

The part of New Ontario adjacent to New Liskeard is about the area of the two counties York and Simcoe, and in this area twenty-seven townships have been surveyed. As the land is of very uniform quality, the Lands Department has only thrown ten townships open for settlement in order to concentrate the population, and thus give the newcomers, as far as possible, the benefits of close settlement with its attendant advantages of roads, bridges, schools, and churches. New Liskeard is situated in the south-eastern corner of the Township of Dymond, which was all located at the time of the arrival of the excursion, as were also Harris to the east, and Bucke to the south. The Townships of Harley and Kerns, which are north of Dymond, were also pretty well filled, so that the settlement was directed chiefly to the new Township of Armstrong, the nearest corner of which is twelve miles from New Liskeard. There were only a few lots taken in Armstrong before the party arrived; when the party left it was located in five out of the six concessions; and there was also a sprinkling of new allotments in Kerns, Harley, and in Hilliard, the first township east of Armstrong. A party of land-seekers who wanted to see all the opened townships before locating went up later to look at the parts of the Townships of Harris, Casey, Hilliard, and Ingram, lying along the Blanche or White River, on the eastern boundary of the Province of Ontario.

THE CHURCHES REPRESENTED.

On the Wednesday evening those arrivals who could not be accommodated in the house boat were taken in hand by the residents of New Liskeard, and treated with a pioneer hospitality which is peculiarly characteristic of the district. While all the citizens of New Liskeard and especially the members of the Reception Committee worked energetically in this respect, the person to whom, perhaps, the greatest amount of credit is due is Rev. F. C. Pitts, who freely opened his house to members of the party, and who, while Director Southworth and Land Agent Armstrong were doing the proverbial "land office business" at the Crown Lands office, took the newspaper men in charge and showed them the district. He also arranged for, and acted as chairman at, a meeting of settlers to let the newspapers learn the feeling of the community on certain important matters. In Mr. Pitts the Presbyterian Church has a representative fit to occupy the position of leader in this important community at its most critical time, when the man behind the clergyman is most severely tested. He has had to do all sorts of pioneer work, tramping along blazed paths, canoeing, rowing, building, organizing, and acting as extempore Mayor of the town and chairman of important gatherings, and in all he has acted with tact and modesty. The Methodist minister was absent at the time, the Baptist minister was unwell, and the Church of England clergyman lives at Halleybury, and consequently only met a few members of the party for a few moments. It will thus be seen that the leading denominations are fully aware of the importance of the field and have it well occupied.

By five o'clock on Thursday morning most of the land-seekers had pulled on their "walking boots," and were following their guides into the forest. For the next two days no land-seekers were to be seen in New Liskeard, and it was not until Friday evening and Saturday that they began to return in small

THE TEMISCAMINGUE COUNTRY.

parties, tired out and covered with mud, but in most cases heading for the land office, satisfied with their location. That plunge into the forest on Thursday morning, when the woods were soaked in rain and the trails in many places ankle-deep and knee-deep in mud, was a great test of the stamina of the land-seekers, and, while some went out carrying a little too much baggage for such a trip, the way they stuck to it earned the respect of the pioneer settlers. The other quality which they exhibited on all occasions was a uniform cheerfulness, which made them tramp for 12 or 18 hours a day through bush paths with equanimity and haul a soft plank at night with positive delight.

During the days when the land-seekers were tramping through the wet moss in the Townships of Armstrong, Kerns, and Hilliard, arrangements were made for showing the press corps different parts of the country in order to get a good idea of what a few years' work would do to develop a farm.

ONE SETTLER'S EXPERIENCE.

On Thursday a wagon trip was made on the road running east from New Liskeard. This is a new road, only cut out of the bush in the summer of 1900. It was in fairly good condition, except in spots, and in crossing streams the log bridges were pretty low and the grades consequently steep. There are a good many clearings on this road and in places the country is beginning to have a fairly settled look. One of the settlers who had been longest in this section, John G. Richards, formerly lived in Muskoka district, near Bracebridge. He arrived in New Liskeard on April 6, 1897, with \$15 and a horse, which, as he had no feed, he sold for \$75. He afterwards rented seven acres of cleared land, which he sowed and harvested in the intervals of working for neighbors. The seven acres yielded him about 200 bushels of oats from 11 bushels of seed, and he sold 144 bushels at \$1 per bushel—a price due to demand from the lumber camps. On July 1 he bought 159 acres, parts of two adjoining farms, and started in to chop and put up a log house. Most of this land was paid for in work for the owners of the two farms. He chopped six acres on his own farm in 1897, ten acres in 1898, and enough in 1899 and 1900 to bring up the present total amount cleared to about 52 acres. In 1898 he sowed three bushels of fall wheat and reaped 56 bushels from two acres, or 28 bushels to the acre. He had also good crops of barley and potatoes. In 1900 he reaped 80 bushels of wheat, 76 bushels of peas, and 390 of oats. Owing to the irregular size of the fields and to threshing out the grains at intervals with a flail, it was impossible to state just what the yield per acre was; but they were good crops. He worked during the winter in the logging camps and for neighbors in chopping and clearing land. He has now paid for his homestead, and owns 160 acres more in Sutton Bay, where he also located and paid for in full at 50 cents per acre, 160 acres each, for his two oldest sons. He has a good log house, large log barn, three horses, ten head of cattle, wagons, implements, etc. Coming to Temiscamingue in 1897 from Muskoka, where he formerly farmed and butchered, he has refused \$3,000 for his homestead and improvements, and has besides, his land at Sutton Bay. It is only fair to mention that he has not only worked hard on his farm, in the lumber camps, and for his neighbors but also that he has two sons, of about 18 and 19 years of age, and several younger boys, who have greatly assisted him. The soil on his land is the white clay, which is typical of this district, and he was of opinion that this soil, especially when plowed in the fall, would continue to be as easily worked as the first, and that it would not

grow hard and baked. The crops at the time of the visit were looking well, and the grass, mixed timothy and clover, was thickly covering the ground, giving promise of a heavy crop. The grass throughout was one of the features of this country. There is very little natural grass, and no beaver meadows, but the cultivated grasses, especially timothy and clover, grow luxuriantly. In some places, as for instance, on the Blanche River, where fire has recently burnt off the timber, native grass has begun to grow.

THE SOIL AND THE TIMBER.

On the return from this trip, a short trip was made out on the road running north from New Liskeard. This road was cut out several years ago, and not having been properly repaired since, was in rather bad repair. It was explained by residents that there was no municipal organization up to this summer. It had been impossible to enforce statute labor, and the bad state of the roads was one of the consequences. The Township of Dymond is now organized, and it is expected that the roads will be properly kept up.

The general appearance of the country on the north road was similar to that on the east road. Generally speaking, the country along these roads is a fairly level plain, intersected by small water courses. The trees are mostly spruce, balsam, and poplar, with a sprinkling of tamarack, cedar, and balm of Gilead, and occasionally a pine. The forest grows thick, and the trees are comparatively small. The forest experts agree that this is due to the fact that a fire about 90 years ago burned over all this country, and the trees have not had time to get large. The fact that the timber is comparatively small, enables the stumps to be got rid of much more easily than on the old Ontario farm, and while four or five years are usually given as the time required for stumping the land after chopping, some fields were to be seen which with the use of a team and chain had been stumped in three, and even two years after chopping. This plain consists of a white clay subsoil, with a covering of four or five inches of decayed vegetable matter. No outcroppings of rock were to be seen anywhere on this plain; rolling stones were also entirely absent. In this respect Temiscamingue differs completely from the country between it and Mattawa, where the land, so far as it can be seen from the steamer, is broken and rolling, with occasional outcroppings of rock. One of the farmers along the north road came from Tipy Township, on Georgian Bay, near Penetang, and another from Muskoka, and both expressed themselves as well satisfied with the change. One of the settlers had a small garden, in which he said he raised all the ordinary vegetables, including cucumbers and tomatoes, which latter ripened out of doors. The trip up the north road concluded the investigations of Thursday.

THE BLANCHE RIVER DISTRICT.

One of the districts in the Temiscamingue country that is attracting a great deal of attention is that lying along the Blanche, or White River, just on the eastern border of the Province of Ontario and joining Quebec. The Ottawa River and Lake Temiscamingue form the boundary line further south, but from Lake Temiscamingue northward the boundary line strikes straight overland to James Bay, and the Blanche River enters the lake just west of the starting point of this line.

On Friday, May 31, the press party were taken by Mr. Southworth about fifteen miles up the Blanche River on the little steamer Comet. A peculiarity of

the rivers of this district is their depth. The Wahbe, which is only about one hundred feet wide at its mouth at New Liskeard, is twenty-one feet deep, and this depth continues up for a considerable distance. The same holds true of the Blanche River, which enters Lake Temiscamingue through several mouths. The steamer essayed to enter the main mouth of the river, but finding it filled with sawlogs and a boom across the opening, gained the upper river through another mouth or "sny." This is a word which seems peculiar to the Ottawa Valley and means a channel or short cut or safe path. It is probably a corruption of the French word "chenal."

The banks at first were very low and swampy and covered with cedar, but a mile or so up they became higher and were covered with soft maple and other trees which grow on higher and drier soil. A number of clearings of considerable size had been made along the river and these showed the soil to be of the same general character as that about New Liskeard. There is the same level plain covered with comparatively light timber without any sign of rock or loose stones. As the river is navigable for steamers for twenty-five miles, and as in some parts the fire has run through in recent years, leaving only a growth of young poplar to be cleared off, the Blanche River has become one of the favored districts.

The steamer ran into the bank at Judge post-office to allow those on board to see the farm of Mr. Hugh Kleis, who has been five years in the country, coming from Grey County. He had forty acres cleared, and one four-acre field, which was cleared two years ago, had only three stumps in it at the time of the visit. The rest were cleared out by one horse and block and tackle. There are five hundred acres altogether in the farm and Mr. Kleis said that it would be more than paid for in the timber taken off. Last winter with one horse and the aid of his boy, who was going to school, they averaged four dollars per day getting out pulp wood. Off one half-acre he took \$30 worth of pulp wood. Pulp wood, that is spruce logs, cut into twelve-foot lengths sells for \$2.25 and \$2.30 per cord delivered on stream large enough to float it down. On this farm oats and peas had proved good crops and timothy had run as high as two and a half tons to the acre. After leaving Grey County Mr. Kleis farmed for fourteen years in North Dakota, within forty miles of the Manitoba boundary, and likes New Ontario much better than the prairies.

The Blanche River country is spoken of very highly by all who have settled upon it. A party of land-seekers were taken up by Mr. Herron under the direction of the department in the following week, and a considerable number took up locations there. After coming down the river again the steamer passed out through another sny into a part of the lake further east, and after a run of a few minutes entered the Ottawa River, which here enters Lake Temiscamingue from the north-east, and ran up to North Temiscamingue or "Head of the Lake." Here there is a Roman Catholic mission, the buildings situated on a high hill which gives a fine view of the surrounding country. There is an Indian reserve here and Father Beaudry, the priest in charge, has carried on a farm for some years. Last season he got the following returns: From $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of potatoes planted he got a return of 54 bushels. Wheat yielded 22 bushels to the acre, peas 18, and oats 70. Tomatoes in his garden ripened in the open air.

DYMOND TOWNSHIP RECORDS.

On the following day a trip was made out west from New Liskeard, the same general features predominating. There was perhaps more cedar among

the trees, and the trees were perhaps somewhat larger. To give an idea of the size of the timber, it was stated that one notable cedar telegraph pole had been got out last winter eighty-five feet long and seven inches through at the small end. While there would be very few sticks of this size in this forest poles of from fifty to sixty feet were comparatively common. To the southward the country appears to be somewhat more rolling and broken, and in a few places there were outcroppings of rock. It was in fact generally stated that the Township of Bucke marked the southern limit of the clay belt, and that south of it rocks and hills predominated clear through to the main line of the C.P.R., and that as a general rule the country was not suited for agriculture.

A YORK COUNTY MAN.

One of the settlers longest in this part of the Township of Dymond is Mr. Thomas Chester, formerly of Scarboro', York County, and brother of Mr. James Chester, reeve of Scarboro'. He is still the owner of 125 acres in Scarboro', but looks for greater development in New Ontario than in the settled south. He has lots 5 and 6, on the third concession of Dymond, and other lands, amounting in all to 800 acres. He has been in the country since the fall of 1895, and had fifteen acres cleared and in crop, and fifteen acres more chopped and ready for clearing. He had followed throughout the plan of only selling the timber on the farm as he cuts it in actual clearing operations. From ten acres he sold \$543 worth of timber in the form of ties, dimension cedar and pulp wood. The timber on the farm consists principally of tamarack, cedar, and spruce, and some very fine trees were to be seen, especially very large cedars. There is a good sized stream running through the place, so that timber can be marketed to the best advantage. The sticks and cordwood are drawn down to the creek in winter and sold there to the lumbermen, who look after floating the timber down streams in the spring. The last three winters, Mr. Chester estimated his profits (over cost of labor) from selling timber from his own land as follows: \$60, \$500, and \$325. In this way a farmer near a creek is paid for clearing his own land, whereas, if he were a considerable distance away from a sufficiently large stream, it might pay better to burn the timber right on the ground. He had faith in both the soil and the climate. The crop of clover growing on this farm was particularly good, a fact which was remarked by all visitors from Southern Ontario.

MUSCLE AND GRIT HEARD FROM.

Mr. Chester's case is that of a man with experience and capital, who is able to employ labor when required and direct it to good advantage. Not far from this farm was that of Mr. William Brown, on the north half of lot 3, in the third concession of Dymond. Mr. Brown came in five years ago, when twenty years of age, and after having the experience of a farm hand in the Township of Pickering, Ontario County. He stated that he had practically no capital but his muscle and energy, but that he put in five years of hard work for lumbermen, for neighbors, and for himself, and now has a property that he values at \$1,500. He has a considerable clearance, and a good frame barn, three horses, and other stock. He had raised 35 bushels of fall wheat to the acre, and considered the soil of Dymond as good as the richest land in Pickering.

INTERVIEW WITH PROF. SHARPE.

The visitor to Temiscamingue, as to any other new country, must depend largely for his information upon the evidence of residents. The general in-

THE TEMISCAMINGUE COUNTRY.

dications lead him to certain conclusions, but only persons who have spent a considerable time in the country can give exact information as to all important particulars of climate, soil, and products. Temiscamingue is fortunate in having an exceptionally intelligent class of settlers, able to judge fairly and to express themselves clearly as to the capabilities of their country.

Perhaps the most important testimony is that of Prof. Sharpe, formerly of Morin College, Quebec, now professor of philosophy in Queen's University, Kingston. Going out to New Ontario to do missionary work for the holidays some years ago, he was attracted by the general appearance of the country, and purchased a farm in Bucke Township, having a frontage on Lake Temiscamingue, and a grand view of the islands and opposite shore. He has spent his holidays here ever since, and some members of his family live here during the whole year.

Prof. Sharpe has kept a record of a good many details of his work, and consequently his figures are particularly interesting. A piece of land on this farm was chopped and burnt off in the summer of 1899, and fall wheat sown on September 12. It was sown on the surface and harrowed in without ploughing. Part of the field was unfertilized and part was tested with fertilizers sent from the Ontario Agricultural College. The part of the field unfertilized yielded 28 bushels to the acre, and the fertilized part, 34 1-2 bushels to the acre. Two fertilizers were used, muriate of potash and nitrate of soda, the latter being the one which produced the heaviest crop. He had not kept an exact record of oats and barley owing to the shape of the fields, but they had produced good crops. On the farm they had also grown strawberries, gooseberries, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Frost has never done any harm on this farm, and the belief prevalent in the district was that frost only did damage where the clearing was too small to allow of a circulation of air.

This was the testimony of other settlers, that in the very earliest days of the settlement, when each clearing was just a little hole in the forest the frost about August 25 sometimes damaged the more tender crops, but that as soon as enough was cleared to allow the sun to warm a considerable area of ground and the air to circulate the frost disappeared. The two parts of Southern Ontario with which Prof. Sharpe is acquainted are Renfrew and Haliburton. The soil in Temiscamingue is, he states, quite as good as that about Renfrew, and is much like that of the Bonnechere valley, except that the latter has been worked more and the clay is consequently darker. As compared with Haliburton, a young man, in Prof. Sharpe's opinion, is better off in Temiscamingue, because he has better wages when working for others, work whenever he wants it, and in the end a better farm. There is not enough produce raised to supply the local market, and with the large lumber trade the local market will likely absorb all the produce of the district for the next ten years, by which time exporting will begin. The chief difficulty at present is that lumbering offers so many inducements to the workingman that settlers do not by any means give their whole strength to the clearing and working of their farms and the development of the country is consequently retarded.

Other interviews with settlers are as follows:

SUTTON BAY AND KERNS TOWNSHIP.

Mr. A. J. Ritchie, of Sutton Bay, considered that Dymond was like the Township of Mariposa as regards soil, and that there was very little difference

in the climate except that the cold in the north was dryer and not so raw. In the earlier years of the settlement there had been some frosts in August, but there were none now in big clearings, and he believed frost would entirely disappear when the country was cleared and drained. He would not give the impression that men could come to Temiscamingue and at once drop into comfortable homes, but if they came prepared to work they could do better than in Southern Ontario.

Among the first settlers in the Township of Kerns, which lies north-west of Dymond, were the Newtons. One of the members of this family, Mr. J. T. Newton, is located on lot 5, third concession of Kerns. He came in from the Township of Haldimand in the County of Northumberland, in 1897. He has now 16 cleared and 10 acres more chopped and ready for logging. Last year five pecks of wheat sown on about half an acre produced 20 bushels. Oats averaged 35 and 40 bushels to the acre. He got 105 bushels of peas off nearly three acres, full of stumps. He got a return of 32 bushels of potatoes from one bushel planted. This family sold their timber as they cleared up their farm, the chief varieties on their land being cedar, tamarack, and spruce. The prices for timber, delivered on a stream, were:—Tamarack ties, 11½¢ apiece; cedar telegraph poles, 7 inches through at the small end, according to length, as follows:—20 feet, 50¢; 35 feet, 75¢; 40 feet, \$1; 50 feet, \$1.50; 60 feet, \$2. Last winter four men with one horse, took off \$275 worth of timber from three acres and delivered it on the ice of the creek in four weeks. Mr. Newton believed that the white clay soil would continue to improve year by year, as it was worked, especially where it was intelligently farmed. Timothy was superior to what he had known at the "front" and ran two tons to the acre by exact measurement. They had never been bothered by frost. The Township of Kerns is nearly all taken up, and chiefly by men from about Mr. Newton's old home, that is between the Towns of Baltimore and Cobourg, and the settlers are well satisfied. There is a sawmill in the township, a general store, blacksmith shop, and a school-house costing \$500, paid for, in which school is regularly held.

DRAWBACKS THAT WILL DISAPPEAR.

P. T. Lawlor, formerly of Ottawa, who lives near Haileybury, in the Township of Bucke, devotes his attention mainly to lumbering, but has had crops of oats running from 50 to 60 bushels to the acre. At present the small clearings and their distance from one another renders threshing with a flail almost a necessity, while both the small size of the fields and the presence of stumps prevents the use, as yet, of labor-saving machinery; all of which tends to lower the records that it has been possible to make so far. With larger clearings and more of them, farming is bound to become much easier and consequently more profitable. Mr. Lawlor cites his own as a typical case of injustice to the land. Last fall, when the land should have been ploughed, he was off looking after his lumber camp, and this continued until after the logs had come down the "drive." By that time it was too late to do spring work properly, and the ground was harrowed and the seed thrown in. In spite of this the crops were looking fairly well at the time of the party's visit.

A HORTICULTURAL ENTHUSIAST.

The population of Temiscamingue is estimated at 2,000 settled over six or seven townships, and most of the settlers have only been on their lands from three to five years. On the Quebec side of Lake Temiscamingue, however, and about thirty or thirty-five miles from Haileybury and New Liskeard is the settlement of Baie des Peres, which has been opened for about twelve years. This settlement has a population of about 4,000, and appears to be a very thriving community. The ground is more rolling than in New Ontario, and from the hills which lie at the back of the little Town of Ville Marie, a number of fine farms can be seen. Hay is one of the chief crops grown to sell to the lumbermen, and the appearance of the grass on June 1, proved that the country was well adapted for this crop. One of the most enthusiastic gardeners at this point was Mr. Guay, the notary, who has had great success with strawberries, gooseberries, red, white, and black currants, crab apples, and all the vegetables usually grown in Ontario and Quebec. He is now experimenting with plums, cherries, grapes, and apples, either of hardy varieties or grafted on to the wild

cherry, plum, or apple stock; and the way the young trees and grafts have grown gives promise of success. He found that the clay of his garden was too heavy and cold for his trees until he thoroughly drained it by means of log drains, and now the soil is as hearty and mellow as could be desired, and the trees are thriving with renewed vigor. Virginia creeper vines and a number of varieties of roses are also doing well, and he is very hopeful of producing standard apples, egg-plums, and French and English cherries. The gardens and farms of Baie des Peres were objects of great interest to the Temiscamingue excursionists, who were encouraged by what they saw, and believed similar results could be got in New Ontario.

Why should the people of Old Ontario generally, and of Toronto in particular, be interested in the movement of population into the Temiscamingue and New Ontario country any more than in similar movements to other parts of Canada, and what is the extent of it? Toronto is interested because the point of entrance into this part of Ontario is within 320 miles of Toronto, and is so situated that it should be tributary to the central part of the province commercially. The extent of the whole of the new region is given as 480 miles from east to west, and 120 miles from north to south, giving an area of fifteen and a half million acres of arable land; or a territory as large as the part of South-Western Ontario west of Toronto. It now seems that this country is destined to be developed agriculturally, and part of it developed very rapidly, and the question for Toronto and Central Ontario is, whether this development will benefit Toronto, or whether other cities and other provinces are to be allowed to derive all the advantage.

FIRST LUMBERING, THEN FARMING.

The Temiscamingue district, which occupies the south-eastern corner of the white-clay belt, came into notice as a possible agricultural section in the most natural way some years ago; but any move toward development was prevented by lack of transportation facilities. For two generations lumbering has been carried on along the Ottawa River and its tributaries, and Lake Temiscamingue, which borders a small portion of the clay country, is only an expansion of the Ottawa River. The river affords transportation facilities so far as the driving of logs down the river was concerned, but the presence of numerous rapids made the getting of supplies into the country very difficult. In fact, the cost of getting camp supplies into the Upper Ottawa country for a number of years seriously impeded lumbering operations. A good many of the difficulties were got over when the main line of the C.P.R. was built, which passed through the town of Mattawa, and thus made transportation easy to that point. In the years following, some adventurous pioneers squatted along the shores of Lake Temiscamingue.

They were mostly old employees of the H. B. Co. and the lumber firms, who saw the value of the land and believed in its future. It was through the representations of these men that the district began to be heard of, but no real attempt at settlement was made until a branch railway 38 miles long had been built from Mattawa up the Quebec side of the Ottawa to the lower end of Lake Temiscamingue. This railway got round a series of very bad rapids, which had made the getting in of supplies very expensive. This was about six years ago, and this date marks the beginning of the present Temiscamingue settlement.

Roads and railroads are the two things which the people of Temiscamingue are most interested in. A railway to the outside in the near future is an absolute necessity, as at present for nearly six months in the year the simple work of getting into or out of the country is very difficult, while during this time it is utterly impossible to transport goods in any quantity. The country has progressed so well as it has, because the chief export product—so far—timber—is harvested in the winter, and transported in the spring and summer by being floated down the Ottawa and its tributaries to the big mills; but this line of transportation is closed to all products harvested in the autumn and shipped at that time and in the winter.

EXPRESSIONS OF SETTLERS' NEEDS.

During the recent land-seekers' excursion, a meeting of settlers presided over by Rev. F. C. Pitts, was held in the Presbyterian Church, at New Liskeard. The chief speakers at this meeting were Professor Sharpe and Mr. Angus McKelvie, sawmill owner at New Liskeard. Professor Sharpe said that, so far as he knew, the feeling of the settlers there was strongly in favor of having the railroad built in from North Bay. This sentiment was unanimously endorsed

a little later by the passing of a resolution, that in the opinion of the meeting it was advisable to have the railroad enter the country by way of North Bay.

Professor Sharpe's idea was that leading wagon roads should be cut into the country slightly in advance of settlement. There should be roads within three or four miles of the lands thrown open for settlement. The settlers could then be left to cut out the cross roads and intermediate roads for themselves. The present policy was to follow up the settler with roads, always keeping the roads a little behind the settlement. By this policy the settler was left, not only to push into the bush, to look for his new farm, but after he had located he had sometimes to get his belongings in through eight or nine miles of bog and blazed path. Small articles had often to be carried in on a man's back, and heavier articles left outside till a trail could be cut. As some one person should select the lines for these main roads, as they obviously could not pass every man's door, he suggested that the Good Roads Commissioner, Mr. Campbell, be asked to come up and give the local road inspector the benefit of his council and experience, and thus the roads would be constructed on a uniform plan.

Another suggestion which he made was that the Government should establish, not an experimental, but a test farm. This was a country with many new features, with many things for the settler from Old Ontario to learn, and still more for those to learn who came in with only a rudimentary knowledge of farming, and these often succeeded among the best. He had made a few experiments and had found varieties of potatoes which gave twice as large crops, in that soil, as the potatoes generally planted, but in a new settlement the settlers' land and time were too precious to be used in experimenting or testing, and consequently unless a small test farm were established the people would have to wait until later to find out just what plants, seeds, fertilizers, and methods were best suited to it.

Mr. Angus McKelvie said that when down to Toronto last winter, on a deputation, he had pressed upon the Government the necessity of extending the railway into Temiscamingue from North Bay. It was 236 miles from Toronto to North Bay, and only ninety miles more would bring the line into North country, would be tributary to Toronto. He held it was a mistake to then form a direct line only a little over 300 miles long, and the trade of the the heart of Temiscamingue. The road from Temiscamingue to Toronto would attempt at the start to have too many roads, but the main roads should be made fit to travel on at all times in ordinary weather, and should be so located that no settler would be more than three miles from a road. He believed a visit from Mr. Campbell, the Good Roads Commissioner, would result in a great deal of good.

It was stated in the meeting that the local inspector had done good work, but it was felt his hands would be strengthened if the authority of the department, through Mr. Campbell, were used to lay out a general system of roads.

A resolution, inviting Mr. Campbell to come up and lay out roads, was then passed unanimously.

CONCLUSION.

Taking the Temiscamingue country as a whole the testimony of the settlers was that there was an immense area of fairly level land free from rocks and with a clay soil extending in many cases to a depth of thirty feet. The crops have been harvested without more than the usual drawbacks that usually prevail in a new settlement. Many settlers reported that frost had never injured their crops, while others reported that August frosts had disappeared since their clearings became large enough to allow free circulation of air. The fewness of the settlers and the smallness of the clearings have placed farming at a comparative disadvantage so far, because of the delay of handling such large and expensive machinery as threshing machines over long distances to thresh out the product of a few acres. With more settlers and increased acreage these difficulties will disappear. The same holds true in regard to flour mills, there being only one mill at Baie des Peres, thirty or forty miles to the south on the Quebec side. The newness of the settlement has also prevented the use of labor-saving machinery, which is now a necessity in farming.

As yet the country does not produce sufficient to supply the wants of the population. This is due to the large lumbering population, which is at work in this district nearly all the year. This not only means a large consuming population, but good prices paid for labor by the lumbermen. It is a great

assistance to the settler without capital to be able to make \$25 or \$30 per month and board in the camps and still higher wages on the "drive," but this fact which is thus a great help and inducement to settlement makes the opening up of the farms correspondingly slow, as it takes men away from their farms just when they should be at work. Oats, pressed hay, flour, beans, and pork are largely imported to supply the lumber camps. Last season one firm took in 21,000 bushels of oats and 350 barrels of pork. Persons in the district competent to speak on the subject think that it will be ten years before the farm products raised in the country will supply this home market.

Prices for all farm produce, owing to this large importation, are usually higher than in Southern Ontario by the amount of the freight, and in the winter season, when goods have to be teamed in, prices often go considerably higher. Then the cedar, tamarack, and spruce timber on the farm all has a cash value if it is not too far from a stream.

There was one feature of the Temiscamingue district which was noticed by all the visitors, and that was the superior class of settlers who are now in the district. Nearly every settler was from Old Ontario, and so was perfectly familiar with school and municipal affairs. Moreover they exercised their intelligence, and schools, churches, and even libraries are the order of the day. Many of the prospective settlers commented upon the advantage of settling among educated intelligent people as compared with settling in districts partly allotted to foreigners who do not understand the language or the laws and customs of this country.

That a very large percentage of the land-seekers' party took up land in the district is perhaps the most satisfactory testimony, coming as it does as the verdict of practical men from all part of Old Ontario, and this fact is also a tribute to Mr. Thomas Southworth, director of colonization, who, by his firm faith in the new districts, his practical common sense, and his unflinching patience and geniality in answering questions and straightening out tangles, in the first place, got the right class of men on the land-seekers' excursion, and in the second gave them such assistance and information as enabled them to get land suited to their wants and inclinations. He was available at all hours of the day and most of the night, and answered the same question a hundred times without growing weary.

While Temiscamingue is not a tourist country, being too flat for the seeker of fine scenery, it has the great attraction of being a country where people from Southern Ontario can see the very beginning of settlement, and imagine that they are back, say, in York County a hundred years ago. The steamers are well equipped, and there is hotel accommodation at nearly every point with an especially good tourist hotel at Temiscamingue Station; while those who desire magnificent primeval scenery have only to take a canoe trip through the Temagami country, which lies between Temiscamingue and the C.P.R., to get it.

The country needs a railway and it needs more colonization roads, while the improvements to navigation have not been all of the happiest. The dock at Halleybury, upon which it is said \$3,000 has been spent by the Dominion Government, was no use whatever when the excursion was present, passengers and freight having to be taken out to the steamer in small boats. It would appear that either the money was badly spent or else the appropriation was not sufficient. There remains, too, the question of the development of the white clay, whether it will remain as easily worked as at present or whether it will become hard after it is worked, but the practical farmers who have gone up have taken all these things into consideration, and their verdict is that the country is one in which they are willing to make their homes.

One hundred and sixty-two land-seekers went into the Temiscamingue country on the land-seekers' excursion conducted by Mr. Thomas Southworth, director of colonization, and by Monday morning, when the press representatives left for the south, 107 farms had been located, and it was expected that the remainder of the party would locate at least 25 farms more.*

In the block system of survey, under which Temiscamingue is laid out, there are 144 one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farms to a township, and as perhaps a third of the party were still in the country when the newspaper men left, the net result of the excursion will be the settling of one whole township with men who will within six months be at work clearing their farms.

*Note, these figures were considerably exceeded.