

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
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Queen's University at Kingston

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HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION

RELATING TO

THE DISTRICT OF ALGOMA

IN THE PROVINCE OF

ONTARIO.

Letters from Settlers and others, and Information as to
Land Regulations.



Issued under the authority of the Government of Canada
(Minister of the Interior).

LAND AVAILABLE FOR SETTLEMENT IN ALGOMA.

THE district of Algoma forms a part of the province of Ontario, and is situated between Lakes Huron and Superior, the central point in the district being the town of Sault Ste. Marie, which is situated on St. Mary's river, connecting the lakes already mentioned. It contains millions of acres of valuable agricultural and stock-raising lands, and has been receiving considerable attention in the Canadian Press for some time.

At the request of the Algoma Land and Colonisation Society, which has been devoting its efforts to attract a desirable class of settlers to the district, the Minister of the Interior in the Dominion Government has authorised the preparation of this pamphlet. It contains, by way of introduction, some particulars as to the vacant lands in Algoma, where and how to obtain them, and gives the names of Government officials who may be communicated with on the subject.

As to a description of the district itself, it was thought much better that this should be given by farmers and others who are already settled there, and who could put in their own way the advantages they believed the different parts of the district offered. The names and addresses of several of these gentlemen are printed in full, and they are prepared to receive correspondence from intending settlers, and also to reply to it.

Further information and copies of the special pamphlet issued under the auspices of the Colonisation Society before referred to may be obtained from the following Agents of the Dominion Government in Great Britain:—

LONDON Sir CHARLES TUPPER, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B., High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.
" Mr. J. G. COLMER, C.M.G., Secretary, High Commissioner's Office.
LIVERPOOL Mr. JOHN DYKE, 15, Water Street.
GLASGOW Mr. THOMAS GRAHAME, 40, St. Enoch Square.
BIRMINGHAM ... Mr. E. J. WOOD, 79, Hagley Road.
IRELAND Mr. G. LEARY, William Street, Kilkenny.
BRISTOL Mr. J. W. DOWN, Bath Bridge.

The Ontario Government have also an Agent in Liverpool, Mr. Peter Byrne, whose address is, Nottingham Buildings, 19, Brunswick Street, and another in Toronto, Ontario, Mr. David Spence, Old Parliament Buildings, Front Street West. These gentlemen can also be communicated with upon any matters relating to Algoma.

The following is an extract from a pamphlet published by the Ontario Government, entitled "Ontario, as a Home for the British Tenant Farmer":—

By its intersection with railways and colonisation roads the district of Algoma has acquired convenient means of access to outside

markets and is now attracting public attention, not only on account of the mining and lumbering operations carried on within its borders, but also because of its millions of acres of valuable lands, which offer a most desirable field for the profitable pursuit of stock-raising, as well as general farming. It contains several of the free grant townships, many townships not yet open for settlement, besides large tracts of government lands on sale to actual settlers at 20 cents per acre, and a considerable portion of these lands is of excellent quality and well fitted for the purposes mentioned. Among its advantages as a stock-raising country are an abundant supply of water—creeks, springs, rivers, and lakes being plentifully distributed throughout the entire district; absence of summer droughts and consequent abundance of green pasture, from the disappearance of the snow in spring till its falling at the beginning of winter; luxuriant hay and root crops, and a fertility of soil which in some localities is not excelled in any other part of the province. For cattle ranching there are special facilities in the lands stretching along the river banks, while on the high lands and rocky bluffs and ridges sheep can be pastured without cost through the spring, summer, and autumn seasons.”

A miller who removed from Eastern Ontario to the Algoma district some years ago, writes:—

“I feel satisfied that Algoma is fully equal to Eastern Ontario for mixed farming. All kinds of grain do well here. Grass cannot be beaten, we can raise better grass-fed beef in Algoma than can be produced in any part of Ontario (or Canada). As for grain I never milled better wheat than I have done in Algoma. I made quite a number of tests from farmers’ grists during the winter, and seldom found a test go below 60 pounds per bushel, and some as high as 65 pounds per bushel. For the vicinity of Port Lock, on the north shore between Bruce Mines and Sault Ste. Marie, spring wheat averages from 20 to 25 bushels per acre, fall or winter wheat 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Peas are easily grown and are a sure crop. They average about 40 bushels per acre. Oats are generally a good crop. All kinds of root crops grow well here. I have known potatoes to yield 50 bushels from one bushel planted.”

A farmer residing near Sault Ste. Marie, who came from Norfolk, England, and has spent over twelve years in Algoma, says:—

“A man coming here without any money, if he works hard and has a knowledge of the business, can perhaps get on better in Algoma than in other countries where there is no work or employment in the winter months as there is in Algoma, in the woods and mines, and on public works; but the kind of farmers to come here, and the men who would make themselves independently well off in a very short time, are tenant farmers and others with a little means or capital and a good practical knowledge of farming or stock-raising, men who understand it as a business, and who have a little money to buy good stock and implements and get well started.”

LANDS IN ALGOMA—WHERE AND HOW TO OBTAIN THEM.—
ONTARIO FREE GRANT AND TWENTY CENTS AN ACRE LANDS
AND DOMINION INDIAN (SURRENDERED) LANDS.

THERE are all over the north shore and the islands of Manitoulin, Cockburn, and St. Joseph, dozens and scores of townships containing thousands of acres of arable, agricultural, fruit-growing, and stock-raising lands, and which can be obtained by the actual settler, free or almost free, from the Crown Lands Department of Ontario, or the Indian Department of the Dominion Government. We advise anyone interested in these free grant or Indian lands to write to the Crown Lands Department at Toronto, Ontario, enclosing \$1, for the large map of "The North Shore of Lake Huron," issued by that Department in 1890, or a later edition if there is one. This map is about 4 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 6 in., and shows the Indian townships painted red, so that the Indian townships can easily be distinguished from the Ontario townships. On looking at it, it will be observed that all the townships on the Manitoulin and Cockburn are Indian lands, also the fertile townships of Dennis and Pennefather, and several other townships north, west, and east of Sault Ste. Marie on the main land, and that the lands on St. Joseph Island are Ontario Crown lands, also in Prince and several other townships on the north shore.

There are, besides the townships which are surveyed, thousands of acres to the north of them owned by the Governments which are not surveyed, and as fast as the townships which are now open to location are taken up by settlers, the Governments will open other townships for location as they are needed.

There is room on the fertile lands lying to the north of Lakes Huron and Superior and the River St. Mary, and on the islands of Manitoulin, Cockburn, and St. Joseph, and owned by the Dominion and the Ontario Governments respectively, for the surplus population not only of older Canada, but of Europe. Then in addition there is Balfour and other townships in Algoma East, and Oliver and other townships in Algoma West on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Information as to the Ontario free grant and 20 cents an acre lands can be obtained from the Crown Lands Department at Toronto; or from the following and other local Crown lands agents in the district of Algoma:—The Crown Lands Agents resident at Sault Ste. Marie, Richard's Landing, Thessalon, or Massey.

Information as to the several townships of Indian lands open for location may be obtained from the Department of Indian Affairs at Ottawa; or the following local Indian land agents in Algoma:—The Indian Agents resident at Sault Ste. Marie, Thessalon, Manitowaning, or Cockburn Island; at the offices of the Agent of the Ontario Government in Liverpool, England; or of the Dominion Government at London, England, or elsewhere in Great Britain. Any agent or friend of the Algoma Land and Colonisation Company in or out of Algoma will also cheerfully give any information in his power both as to Ontario or Indian lands to any intending settler.

At the outset of "the immigration and colonisation movement in Algoma," it was felt that something would have to be done about the large tracts of magnificent land owned by speculators, syndicates, and companies situate all over the district; and then many of the settlers also were holding for speculation blocks of land which they did not need and could not work themselves. And then also it was felt that a good many of the new settlers coming to Algoma would have a little capital or means, and would much prefer to buy a desirable farm either improved, partially-improved, or wild, and situate within one of the front and settled or partially-settled townships, than to go further back from the present settlements, and take up free grant, 20 cents an acre, or Indian land. (For further information on this point, see pp. 55-58, "Algoma Farmers Testify.")

Letters from residents in different parts of Algoma who may be communicated with by letter and who offer to supply any further information that may be desired.

From Mr. WILLIAM TURNER, Crown Lands Agent,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, December, 1892.

I HAVE noticed lately with a good deal of interest the letters appearing in different newspapers relative to the many inducements and opportunities offered by the district of Eastern Algoma as a field of colonisation and immigration.

I have lived in Algoma for several years, and can speak from experience. The climate is very healthful. There are no "blizzards" in winter, or hurricanes or disastrous storms in summer. In winter the cold is not severe, nor is the weather in winter changeable as in the Old Country. The days in winter are clear, cold yet sunny, bright days. With the exception of perhaps three or four days at the most, all winter it is a pleasure to be outside—working, walking, or driving.

In summer the nights are always cool and refreshing. I do not think the climate can be equalled. One can always count on good sleighing in winter; and one reason why such excellent fall-wheat is raised in Algoma is that the snow stays on the ground and affords good protection from any frost.

To prove this, anyone who has lived in Algoma knows that there is no frost or hardly any in the ground all winter. If you dig away the snow you will find that there is no frost in the ground—the snow has kept the frost-away.

Directly the snow goes away in the spring the grass comes up green, and it stays green and luxuriant all summer—does not wither or get parched or brown as in other countries.

For this reason, and the fact that the clover is indigenous to the soil of Algoma and grows everywhere, I think the country cannot be beaten for stock-raising, both cattle and sheep. The hay crop is frequently $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons to the acre, and there is good water everywhere. I do not suppose one can travel a mile on the north shore between, say,

the Batchewana River and the Mississagua River, a distance of, say, one hundred and sixty miles, without coming across a spring creek, and one may say there is a spring or springs on nearly every quarter-section of land in the district. The same applies to the beautiful island of St. Joseph.

As to the fertility of the soil. Wheat, fall and spring, oats, barley, buck-wheat, peas, roots of all kinds, everything usually grown on a farm, or in a garden, seems to do excellently well here. Apples, crab-apples, plums, cherries, and the smaller fruits, such as currants of different kinds, raspberries, and strawberries do very well. Farmers are commencing to set out orchards all over the district, and the trees are doing very well. There were some splendid exhibits of apples, pears, and other fruits at the recent fall exhibition at Sault Ste. Marie.

Professor Robertson, the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, and Mr. N. Awrey, the Ontario World's Fair Commissioner, attended the exhibition for the purpose of getting exhibits to take to the World's Fair, and they speak in the highest terms of the exhibits of grasses, grains, roots, fruits, and dairy products. Visitors to the World's Fair should ask to see the exhibits of grains, grasses, roots, fruits, &c., from Algoma, as well as the grand display of Algoma's minerals.

With reference to minerals, it should not be forgotten that Algoma possesses great mineral wealth. In addition to its great agricultural resources, copper, silver, gold, platinum, plumbago, nickel, iron, asbestos, and other minerals are being discovered all along the north shore. Within the last few weeks very rich deposits of gold-bearing quartz have been found to the north of Bruce mines and near Thessalon.

It is believed that the townships all around Sault Ste. Marie—north, east, and west—are rich in minerals of all kinds; but as yet there has been little or no exploration made of these townships, and it would probably pay explorers to visit these townships, as the indications are very good.

It is the only country in the world where rich mineral lands and rich agricultural lands are found lying side by side, and where mining and agriculture can be carried on side by side.

As to markets. One good thing about Algoma is the fact that there is a home market and good prices for all a farmer, stock-raiser, fruit-grower, or market-gardener can raise or grow. The lumber camps, mines, and public works need a large supply all the time, and as the mineral development in Algoma is only in its infancy, one can be assured of good markets. Then as soon as the ship canal at the Canadian "Soo" is finished, which will be next year, probably the demand will be greatly increased, as all the Canadian vessels will pass through our canal, instead of going through the United States canal, as they do at present. The vessels will need a large supply of produce. The large water-power canal, now in course of construction on the Canadian side of the rapids of the St. Mary River and nearly completed, will also largely help, not only in building up a big city at Sault Ste. Marie, but in the development and prosperity of the whole district, as large pulp mills, flour mills, furniture factories, &c., will be erected on its banks.

As to lands. There are dozens of townships of Ontario free grant land and 20 cents an acre land; there are also dozens of townships of

Indian (surrendered) lands open for location and settlement at 50 cents an acre.

For the sum of \$1 sent to the Crown Lands Department at Toronto, the reader can obtain a large map of the north shore of Lake Huron—he will see the Indian townships painted *red*. Round the town of Sault Ste. Marie there are the following Indian townships, and settlers can be located on any lands in them on application to Mr. William Van Abbott, the Indian land agent, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario:—Dennis, Pennefather, Fenwick, the west half of Aweres, the west half of Vankoughnet, and several other townships of fertile land in the valleys of the Goulais, Chippewa, Harmony, Cranberry, and Batchewana Rivers.

Round the town of Sault Ste. Marie there are the following townships of Ontario free grant and 20 cents an acre land:—Parke, Prince, and the east half of Aweres, and the east half of Vankoughnet, and other townships north and west.

I am Crown land agent at Sault Ste. Marie, and I shall feel it a pleasure to do all I can to assist settlers in every way possible by giving them all the information I can, and I am sure the Indian land agent will also do all he can in the matter.

The recently-formed Algoma Colonisation Society will also be glad to give any information either as to Ontario free grant, or 20 cents an acre land, or Indian land, or as to improved, partially-improved and wild lands, placed in their hands by the owners for settlement.

If anyone wants full and reliable information about Algoma, they should procure and read a book just published by the Society, entitled “Algoma Farmers Testify.” I will be glad to get and send copies free to anyone, or they may be obtained from the secretary of the Society (Fred. Rogers, Esq., barrister, &c., Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario).

This work contains information not only as to the agricultural resources of the district, but as to its minerals, timber and shipping, statistics as to the markets in and imports into the district, a map of Eastern Algoma, showing the townships on the north shore and St. Joseph Island, and a large amount of general information.

Every intending settler should get it and read it. It shows a good many reasons why Canadians and Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen should prefer to come to Algoma rather than go to a foreign country or the far west.

I have not space to touch upon the great timber wealth of the district—its valuable merchantable hardwood—nor to do more than mention its mineral wealth. The pamphlet mentioned gives full information, and it should not be forgotten that Algoma lies close at hand. Sault Ste. Marie is within 24 hours of Montreal or Toronto.

I am glad to learn that Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner for Canada, London, England, and P. Byrne, Esq., the Agent for the Government of Ontario, Liverpool, England, have each kindly promised to do all they can to bring the claims of Algoma as a desirable field of colonisation and immigration prominently before the tenant farmers and others likely to emigrate from the old country, and at their request supplies of the pamphlet have been sent each of them. Anyone in England, Ireland, or Scotland desiring to receive a copy of the

pamphlet, should drop a line either to Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner for Canada, London, England; or P. Byrne, Esq., Ontario Government Agent, Liverpool, England, asking for a copy of "Algoma Farmers Testify," and they will receive one by mail.

From Mr. ANDREW McAULEY,
Goulais Bay P.O., Ont., Jan. 5, 1893.

I HAVE noticed with a good deal of pleasure that people living in different parts of Algoma are commencing to write to the newspapers about the agricultural resources of this great district and about the many opportunities and inducements Algoma offers to the intending settler and colonist, but so far I have read nothing in any of the papers about the Goulais Bay district or the country north and west of the Sault. There is room in the townships north and west of the Sault and in the valleys of the Goulais and Batchewana rivers for thousands and thousands of settlers. There are already a good many settlers living in what is known as the Goulais Bay settlement. The first settler located in the settlement some eight or nine years ago, and we have now upwards of two hundred settlers, prosperous and doing very well. We have as fine soil as may be found anywhere in the world. A settler can find any soil he may desire, from a rich, sandy loam to a heavy clay. The townships of Vankoughnet, Fenwick, and Haviland are already partly settled, but there is still room in those townships for a good many more settlers, and the townships of Pennefather and Dennis to the south of them have as yet only one or two settlers, and contain magnificent land. In fact, all the townships between Ryan and Palmer townships, north and west of the Batchewana river and Sault Ste. Marie, contain excellent land. They are well watered by several rivers and creeks, the two largest being the Goulais and Batchewana rivers, flowing in a westerly direction through the townships, the latter emptying into Batchewana Bay on Lake Superior, about 35 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie, and the former emptying into Goulais Bay about 25 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie. They are also well watered by the Harmony and Cranberry rivers and a large number of smaller streams and spring creeks, giving an abundant supply of pure water. The climate being a very healthy one for man and beast, and the country not being subject to disastrous storms or hurricanes in summer or blizzards in winter, it will easily be seen that for sheep or cattle raising this country offers far greater inducements than any other field of immigration.

Thinking that my own experience in Algoma might be profitable, I beg to send you a few facts:—Being left in my youthful days without any of this world's goods, I, like many others, began to think how I was going to make an honest living. Well, I had to commence at the lowest step of the ladder and hire out till I earned enough money to start on a small rented farm in the county of Wellington. I was not successful in that venture. I gave up that farm and rented another in the same county. I did a little better on this farm, but found I could not get

ahead. About this time I began to get anxious—as my family were growing up—to procure a home of my own. At that time there were a great many going to the state of Michigan, and I, with seven others, thought we would see what the prospects were in that State. They did not suit us. I returned home dissatisfied with many of the American laws and customs, and moved to the county of Simcoe on a rented farm. It was not many years, however, until I began to see that I could not make or save the price of a farm by renting one, and, being anxious to get a home for myself and children, I sold my effects and moved to what is now known as “the Goulais Bay Settlement,” where I now reside. I bought 160 acres, and since then another 130 acres. There was not one tree chopped on any of the land. We have now 73 acres cleared, a clear deed of the property, and not a cent against it, with sufficient stock to use all the feed we can grow. Besides all this, we have raised twelve children, all living and healthy. Now, I think, when you consider the short time I have been here (it will be only eight years on the 20th of next May), and the improvements that have been made in that time by a novice in farming, who came here with hardly any money at all, there would be no fear but that an Englishman, Scotchman, or old Ontario farmer, having a practical knowledge of farming, joined with a little means or capital, would succeed as well as I have done. And I may say that there are others who have done still better, with even still smaller means, and I can mention their names if necessary.

With regard to the climate, I like it much better than Lower Ontario. We do not suffer as much with cold as in Lower Ontario. This may appear strange to some, but I do not fear successful contradiction in making this statement. As a proof of what I say I have been for a number of years carrying the mail to and from the town of Sault Ste. Marie, which is 26 miles distant by the mail route, and in five years I have never been delayed by the cold or frostbitten in the least, although driving 20 miles without a halt each time. The summers here are pleasant and healthy owing to the breeze off Lake Superior. We are blessed with the best watered country in the world. The farm in Algoma is scarce where there is not a good living spring of pure water or running brook. Fever, malaria, or ague are unknown. All kinds of crops do well here—wheat, spring and fall; oats, barley, buckwheat, corn, tomatoes, apples, crab-apples, plums, cherries, currants of different kinds, raspberries, strawberries, &c. As to roots, I never saw them equalled anywhere. The potato crop is always an excellent one, and the turnips, mangels, parsnips, carrots, &c., cannot be beaten anywhere. Some people seem to have an idea that Algoma may be subject to frost in summer. This is a mistake. In my eight years' experience at Goulais Bay we have never been injured with the frost but once, and that was last season when we planted some potatoes in low new ground. The ground was too low; we should have known better than to have planted them there. I may say, in reference to this low new ground, that we drained it since at a very little expense. There is very little low ground in the country, and none but can be easily and cheaply drained. The summer frost mentioned was not a general thing in the neighbourhood, or even

with us, as we had excellent crops on all the rest of the land, and this is the only instance in eight years where I ever saw anything in Algoma suffer from summer frost. We have two schools in the settlement at present, which are sufficient for the requirements of the settlers. As regards taxes, we have only school taxes to pay, which is only a mere trifle in comparison with what we had to pay in the older settled parts of Ontario. Our market at Sault Ste. Marie cannot be equalled anywhere, as the following prices for a few of our products will show:— Butter, 18 cents to 25 cents per lb., generally 25 cents; eggs, 15 cents to 20 cents a dozen; potatoes, 40 cents to 60 cents per bushel; oats, 45 cents to 55 cents per bushel, and other products accordingly. I might say that these are not the extreme prices, but the average prices the whole summer through. At other seasons of the year the prices are often a great deal higher. In winter the lumber camps around us buy from us of course a large amount of produce at good prices, and so we have a good home market right near us.

I am glad to notice that steps have been taken by the different agricultural societies and farmers' institutes in the district to try and bring to the notice of the world the opportunities and inducements Algoma offers as a field of immigration and colonisation. The formation of the Algoma Colonisation Society was a step in the right direction. A committee composed of the directors of the different agricultural societies and farmers' institutes was formed last year to collect statistics as to the imports into and markets in the district, and the condition of the settlers already in the district and general information as to the advantages of this country for immigration and colonisation. The committee have just published the result of their inquiries in a book or pamphlet of 78 pages, and they have appended to it a good map, showing the townships between Batchewana river and Sudbury, including St. Joseph Island and the Manitoulin. This map will be found very useful to the incoming settler. The reader will notice, on looking at the map, that the townships around Goulais Bay (Pennefather, Fenwick, Haviland, Vankoughnet, &c.) are marked on the map, and that the "Goulais Bay Settlement" is also marked thereon. The pamphlet will be found to contain a large amount of general information, and everyone interested in the development of the great district of Algoma should procure a copy of it. The title of the pamphlet is "Algoma Farmers Testify," and I see by the newspapers that the Dominion Government have sent a supply to Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, London, Eng., and the Ontario Government have sent a supply to Mr. P. Byrne, agent for the Ontario Government, Liverpool, so that the people in the old country can get a copy of the pamphlet by writing to or calling upon either of these gentlemen. People in Canada or the States can obtain copies of the pamphlet on application to Mr. Fred. Rogers, D.C.L., barrister, &c., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., who is a director of the Eastern Algoma Agricultural Society, and who is secretary of the committee I have mentioned.

As to the size of Algoma, I notice in a recent paper that it is 800 miles long, extending from the French river on the east to the boundary of Manitoba on the west; that it is 400 miles wide, extending

from the salt water at James' Bay on the north to Lake Superior, the River St. Mary, and Lake Huron on the south; and that it contains 200,000 square miles, of which fully half are arable and contain the best soil for agricultural purposes, and that a large portion of the other half are magnificent sheep and cattle-raising lands. Algoma is twice as large as the whole of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales and the islands adjacent thereto. It will thus be seen that the people of Algoma are not overstating matters when they claim that there is room in this great district for the homeless folk and the landless folk of older Canada and of Europe. It contains the nickel supply of the world, and gold quartz, iron, copper, silver, platinum, asbestos, and other minerals are being discovered all along the north shore and west and east of the Sault. Algoma contains the grandest pineries in America, the finest merchantable maple, birch, and other timbers, immense fisheries, and a very healthful climate for man and beast.

I will be glad to answer any inquiries that may be made of me either personally or by letter. Sault Ste. Marie is within twenty-four hours' travel from Montreal or Toronto, so this district is easily, quickly, and cheaply reached.

**From Mr. WILLIAM MURRAY,
McLennan, Algoma, March 6, 1893.**

IN common with a good many people living in Algoma, I am glad to see that the newspapers all over are taking up the cause of the much-neglected Algoma. Until lately they were filled with news about Manitoba and the far west; they seemed to forget that a country just as good, if not better, lay close at hand, easily and cheaply reached, being within twenty-four hours of Montreal and Toronto. As a patriotic Canadian I have nothing to say against Manitoba or the North-West Territories; they are part of this great Canada of ours, and I am glad to see them prosper and get well settled, but as a native of Ontario I am glad to see that people are commencing to recognise the fact that Algoma, "the New Ontario," constitutes the "bigger half" of the banner province of Canada, and that there is room in New Ontario for the surplus population of older Canada, as well as of Europe.

I would like to say a word or two by way of friendly advice to the intending settler. Some men would not succeed anywhere, even under the most favourable circumstances; but to a man of limited means, who understands agriculture as a pursuit or occupation, Algoma offers opportunities and inducements which no other field of immigration in the world offers. It has often occurred to me when I have seen beautiful chromos and pictures, representing a farm scene on the western prairies, with probably three or four double teams of horses, and expensive binders, &c., cutting down the golden grain, that pictures of this kind are apt to be deceiving—what I mean to say is, that a poor settler, or even a settler of limited means, could not go there and have all these horses and expensive machinery of his own. From what I can learn, wheat farming on the prairies is like sheep raising in

Australia: that is, it takes lots of money to carry on the business. Doubtless with lots of money you can make money, even if the prices are low; but a man of limited means and small capital wants to go to a country where he can start cheaply, where he can start in a small way, and above all where he can go into mixed farming. It can be truthfully said of Algoma that it is a country where mixed farming pays. It is true we do not have any failure of crops in this district, but even if there were a failure in one kind of crop in a year it would not ruin our farmers, because they are all engaged in mixed farming. Supposing a settler's crop of wheat was to fail in any year, or his barley, or his oats, he has got his roots, and he has got his stock.

I have read recently a good deal about a home market in Algoma. I have pleasure in corroborating the statement that there are good home markets in Algoma—a market at the farmer's own door, so to speak. The reason of this is that such large lumbering operations are carried on in Eastern Algoma, and one may say the lumbering industry is still only in its infancy, because after the pine and pulp, or paperwood is all exhausted, there are very large tracts of hardwood lands containing the finest of birch and maple, suitable for merchantable purposes. Then mining is in its infancy; even the few mining men already in the district need considerable supplies, and people are only just commencing to find out that Algoma possesses mineral wealth of almost every kind. The discovery of the Ophir gold mine, north of Bruce mines, is commencing to fetch capitalists into Eastern Algoma from all over the United States; and as it is not likely that the rich Ophir mine is the only deposit of gold-bearing quartz on the north shore, and as in fact they are finding gold-bearing quartz all over the country between Batchewana River and Sudbury, it is likely the country will be alive with explorers after spring opens. Amongst other recent rich discoveries, native copper has recently been found near Mamainse Point, north-west of the Sault, and iron in the vicinity of Echo Lake in Macdonald township; and nickel even as far west as the Garden River Reserve, 12 miles from the Sault. The development of our mining industry means the insuring for all time to come of good markets in the district, and good home markets are a great thing to a settler of limited means, starting for himself in a new country.

I have been living in the district of Algoma some seven years; I came from the county of Huron, Ontario. I will be glad to answer any letters which may be written to me about Algoma and give any information in my power. I have the honour to be one of the directors of the Eastern Algoma Electoral Division Agricultural Society. This society is the parent or main agricultural society for the whole district. In addition to the district agricultural society there are township or branch societies all over the north shore and the islands; and if any one doubts what is now being said in the public press by the settlers of Algoma as to its agricultural capabilities, they should attend the fall exhibition of our district society at Sault Ste. Marie, or the smaller exhibitions at such places as Thessalon, Iron Bridge, Bruce Mines, Laird (Bar River), Richard's Landing, Marksville, &c., or they should see at the Sault the exhibition of grain of different

kinds, Indian corn, grasses, peas, &c., at the office of Mr. John Dawson, the president of the district agricultural society or the similar exhibit in the office of the Algoma Colonisation Society. Speaking about the last-named society, I have much pleasure in bearing my small testimony to the great good they are doing in bringing to the notice of the outside world the many inducements offered by Eastern Algoma for successful colonisation.

I have carefully read the book or pamphlet "Algoma Farmers Testify," compiled by Fred. Rogers, Esq., D.C.L., barrister, &c., Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, who is a fellow director of mine in the district agricultural society, and I have much pleasure in corroborating the statements made by the many settlers in that book. The whole thing is put in a nutshell at the top of page 51 in that pamphlet—"What our 'Algoma Farmers Testify' proves is this: that a farmer, fruit-grower, cattle or sheep raiser can come to Algoma with small means and do very well if he has a fair knowledge of the business he is engaged in and if he is hard working."

To give one an idea of what a man can do in this country I will say that I had an acre and a half under cultivation in my garden of roots and vegetables last year. I sold \$50 worth of stuff out of the garden and in addition I took \$50 worth of prizes at three exhibitions (Richard's Landing, Bar River, and Sault Ste. Marie). One of the cabbages I showed weighed 25 lbs. (drumhead); one of the turnips I showed weighed also 25 lbs. (Burpee swede); besides this I have now 100 bushels of potatoes for sale besides what we have used in the house, and also sufficient seed for plant again. I expect to get at least 75 cents a bushel for my potatoes; I won't sell them for less. I was offered that for them to-day at Sault Ste. Marie.

I think this proves that Eastern Algoma is a pretty safe country for a man of small means to start farming in. But it is no country for a grumbler or a man who won't work.

As to the amount of capital a man should fetch with him opinions may differ. It depends largely on the man himself. The more capital he has of course the better. But I think, owing to the high price one can get for all one can raise or grow and the good home market, that a person can start here with less money than in any other field of immigration, I don't care where. Of course lots of men in Algoma came here and started without any means at all; the experiences of many of them are stated in the pamphlet I have mentioned, and those who were hardworking and persevering have got on well and are doing well now and are in comfortable circumstances, even though they had none or very little money when they came here; and I think this is the experience of nearly every farmer in Algoma. The men who had money did not come here at all. They passed by this country; they went to far distant fields, which looked green in the distance, and that is why Algoma has never had any chance. I believe that Mr. Geo. Hardemann (who is also a director of our district agricultural society) is in the right when he says at the top of page 16 in the pamphlet I have mentioned, "If the farmers who are going to Dakota and the North-west with \$1,000 and upwards would come here they would do better and be better off," &c., &c.

I would advise every intending settler, or anyone interested in the future of Algoma, to write to Dr. Rogers, at Sault Ste. Marie, for the pamphlet I have mentioned, and if anyone wants further information they can write to me at McLennan Post Office, Ontario, or to Mr. Geo. Hardemann, Sault Ste. Marie P.O., Ontario.

By the way, people particularly interested in that portion of Eastern Algoma known as St. Joseph Island, which in itself is as large as many of the small counties in older Canada and contains thousands of acres of fertile land, should write for information to Mr. Geo. Hamilton, the Crown Lands Agent at Richard's Landing, St. Joseph Island, Ontario. And for public information I might state that there is a gentleman living near me who reads and writes the German language. He tells me he would be glad to answer any letters in that language. His name is Chas. Venn, Bar River P.O., Ontario; and there is a gentleman who writes Danish, and I think also Swedish. His address is J. H. Groth, Township Pennefather, Sault Ste. Marie P.O., Ontario. People can also write him in those languages.

The following gentlemen have also expressed themselves as willing to answer German letters:—J. P. Renner, Township Parke, Sault Ste. Marie P.O., Ontario, and Geo. Benninghaus, Sault Ste. Marie P.O., Ontario.

From Mr. JOHN DAWSON,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, 21st March, 1893.

WHEN so much is being said in the newspapers all over the world to-day about the many and great inducements the district of Eastern Algoma offers as a field for colonisation and immigration, and seeing that a great deal has been said about the good home market in the district, and the high prices a farmer, stock-raiser, or fruit-grower can get for all he can raise or grow, it has occurred to me that it would be well if publicity were given through the Press to the report of the Committee appointed about a year ago by the town council of Sault Ste. Marie to enquire into the quantity of agricultural produce imported into Sault Ste. Marie per annum. This committee was composed of Mr. Sheriff Carney, Councillor Londry, and myself. We were all of us old residents of the district, and Sheriff Carney and myself had been for several years directors of the district agricultural society, and for that reason, we presume, we were put on the committee. We made a very careful investigation of the whole subject, and the following is the report that we made and sent in to the town council:—

“Imports—Wheat, 912 bushels; oats, 17,636 bushels; barley, 800 bushels; peas, 420 bushels; chopped food, 117 tons; flour, 3,661 barrels; potatoes, 6,272 bushels; butter, 52,429 lbs.; eggs, 29,168 doz.; cheese, 9,876 lbs.; honey, 2,000 lbs.; bacon, 5,355 lbs.; fat cattle, 1,029 head; sheep, 714 head; pigs, 651 head; lard, 16,655 lbs.; and dressed poultry, 2 tons. There is no reason that all of the foregoing should not be produced in the vicinity of the town.”

“From the showing of the foregoing figures we deplore the fact that the sparsity of farmers to cultivate the rich virgin soil of Algoma

“is the main cause that such large quantities shown in the foregoing list has to be imported, when, if there were more farmers and the large tracts of land were cleared and cultivated, every article of the enumerated list could be produced and raised in quantity and quality equal to most parts of Ontario. We speak from actual experience and observation, having resided in Sault Ste. Marie and vicinity for 16, 19, and 26 years respectively. The average yield per acre being for wheat, 28 bushels; barley, 30 bushels; oats, 40 bushels; peas, 30 bushels; potatoes, 300 bushels; hay, 1½ tons; this, considering new land—a portion of the area being still uncleared from stumps—is a good showing. The average price for wheat being \$1 per bushel; barley, 75 cents; oats, 55 cents; peas, 80 cents; potatoes, 50 cents; and hay \$12 per ton. Good arable land, partly cultivated, and bush land, within a radius of four miles from the town of Sault Ste. Marie, can be purchased for from \$4 to \$20 per acre; and within a radius of from four to ten miles from the Sault at from \$1 to \$10 per acre. The climate of Algoma has often been thoroughly misunderstood; not by its residents, but by those unfamiliar with its conditions; and misrepresentations made abroad by persons who had more interest in soliciting aid, than the welfare and progress of the district. Coupled with the remarkable healthfulness of the district is the fact that it is a most productive country, caused by a fortunate combination of soil, temperature, and moisture. During the growing season the long, sunny days, coupled with the cool nights and heavy dews, which are often as good as a shower of rain, give the right conditions to produce abundant yield and bring vegetation to a rapid development. The country is particularly adapted for dairying, and for stock-raising, the yield of grass being beyond all comparison, and truthfully the same may be said of all kinds of root crops. In conclusion, Algoma offers every advantage for profitable farming, with climate, soil, and pure water, which makes it one of the most productive districts suitable for settlement on the continent of America. These are facts that cannot be refuted.”

I may say the above prices, as stated, are the average prices—potatoes, for instance, are now selling in this town for 75 cents a bushel, and eggs 30 cents a dozen. Butter is hardly ever less than 25 cents a lb., and often a good deal more.

During the last few months I have been collecting an exhibit of grains, &c., grown in different parts of the district, and I will be glad to show the exhibit to anyone who calls upon me at Sault Ste. Marie. Our district agricultural society collected last fall, under the superintendence of Prof. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, and N. Awry, Esq., M.P.P. (the Ontario World's Fair Commissioner), a good collection of roots, grains, grasses, &c., which have been sent by these gentlemen to the World's Fair. Visitors to the Columbian Exposition who are interested in the resources of New Ontario should not fail to ask to see Algoma exhibit there.

I may also say that an interesting collection of grains, as well as of the different minerals found in different parts of the district, has been collected by the recently-formed Algoma Colonisation Society, and may be seen at their offices at Sault Ste. Marie.

I will be glad to answer any intending settler who writes me, or to send them a copy of the book or pamphlet recently issued by the above-named Society, entitled, "Algoma Farmers Testify," which has been compiled by Fred. Rogers, Esq., D.C.L., barrister, &c., Sault Ste. Marie, a director of our district agricultural society, and which contains statements and letters written by actual settlers all over the country.

I heartily agree with what is said by the settlers of Algoma in this pamphlet, the whole of which is summed up in the three lines at the top of page 51, "What our 'Algoma Farmers Testify' proves is this: that a farmer, fruit-grower, cattle or sheep raiser, can come to Algoma with small means and do very well if he has a fair knowledge of the business he is engaged in, and if he is hard-working."

From Mr. R. A. LYON,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, 21st April, 1893.

I HAVE resided in Eastern Algoma some twenty-two years. For twelve years I represented Eastern Algoma as its member in the Provincial Legislature, and previous to the separation of Thunder Bay District from Eastern Algoma I represented the whole electoral district of Algoma. I therefore have had an opportunity of knowing something about the great resources of Algoma. During the last twenty-two years I have of course frequently travelled over the district; I know most of the settlers in Eastern Algoma personally; I know their circumstances pretty well—have visited them from time to time and talked to them in their own home and on their farms.

I am glad to notice the letters which have recently appeared in the Press relative to the many inducements and opportunities Eastern Algoma offers to the intending settler or immigrant. I heartily agree with the statement made repeatedly by the settlers whose letters and statements are compiled in the work or pamphlet "Algoma Farmers Testify:" that "a farmer fruit-grower, cattle or sheep raiser can come to Algoma with small means and do very well if he has a fair knowledge of the business he is engaged in, and if he is hardworking" (top of page 51).

Of course to succeed in any country a man should have a fair knowledge of the business he engages himself in and should be industrious. As to means and capital I think less capital is required to make a start in Eastern Algoma than in other fields of immigration. It is only within the last few months people are commencing to hear anything about Algoma; so much has been said and written about Manitoba and the North-West Territories and the Western States, and there was such a rush to those countries, that people in older Canada seemed to forget that in Algoma, the "bigger half of Ontario," there was an immense tract of fertile country belonging to the province of Ontario, and waiting the incoming of settlers, and a country lying close

at hand, convenient to the markets of the world, and being within some twenty-four hours' journey by rail or steamer from the older settled parts of Ontario or Montreal. Speaking about markets, the evidence of the settlers of Algoma, compiled in the pamphlet I have mentioned, and the many letters which have recently appeared in the Press on the subject of the colonisation of New Ontario, show that there is a home market in Algoma; that is, a market at the farmer's own door, so to speak, and the reason of this has been explained by the big lumbering and mining operations in different parts of the district, and the public works going on, &c. Then it must be remembered that these home markets are not transient home markets. They will be permanent home markets for the following reasons:—

First. The mining industry in Algoma is only in its infancy. (As to this I would call the reader's attention to the remarks I made a couple of years or so ago on the floor of the Legislature, and an extract from which may be found on pages 41, 42, and 43 of the pamphlet "Algoma Farmers Testify.")

Secondly. Even after all the pine in Algoma is cut, which will not be, of course, for a good many years, there are inexhaustible forests of paper-wood—that is, pulp or fibre-wood—and of merchantable hardwood, birch and maple for flooring, furniture, &c., and in time, of course, there will be a big demand for merchantable hardwood. In fact merchantable hardwood is coming into demand in older Canada and the United States, and now commands a good price.

Thirdly. The opening of the Canadian Ship Canal will in itself largely increase the present good market at Sault Ste. Marie, as Canadian vessels, and probably frequently American vessels also, will go through our Canadian Canal. At present they all go through the American Canal, and do not touch at the Canadian Sault at all. These vessels will need an immense amount of supplies of all kinds. The reason why the American Sault is a large place compared to the Canadian Sault is that they have had for years a ship canal, and we have had none. Directly our canal is finished, which will be about July, 1894, I understand, things will be revolutionised in that respect.

Fourthly. There is the effect the waterpower canal, now nearing completion on the Canadian side of the river, will have on the question of markets. As to this, read pages 39 to 41 of the pamphlet referred to.

But even if there were not such good home markets in Algoma, and even if the present good home markets ceased at any time in the future instead of being increased, as the facts I have shown go to prove, that is, even if in the course of time the people in Algoma had to become exporters—that is, if they had to sell what they grow and raise outside of Algoma—would it not still pay a farmer who is changing his residence to consider the fact that the further he goes away from the great lakes and rivers, the further he is going away from the markets of the world, and the higher his freight rates will be on anything he may raise or grow in the distant country to which he removes? I would call the reader's attention to a very thoughtful and able editorial, entitled a "National Problem," which appeared in the *Toronto Globe*, Saturday, the 8th inst. I quote from that article the following words and figures:—

“Grain rates per 100 lbs. all rail—here are Mr. Van Horne's figures:—

			Oats or Barley.		Wheat.
To Montreal from	Winnipeg	...	42 cents	...	40 cents.
„	„	Brandon	44 „	...	47 „
„	„	Regina	47 „	...	52 „
„	„	Broadview	46 „	...	50 „
„	„	Prince Albert	50 „	...	57 „
„	„	Calgary ...	47 „	...	55 „
„	„	Edmonton	50 „	...	58 „

To Boston and New York the rates of course are still higher. Mr. Jas. Fisher in his pamphlet, ‘Our Highways to the Sea,’ quotes Mr. Isaac Campbell as saying that the rate on wheat by vessel from Port Arthur to Montreal during July and August of the year 1888 was 6½ cents, while Mr. Roblin, a grain forwarder, stated the rate was 8½ cents per bushel. During 1891, a whaleback, with two barges in tow, went from Duluth to Kingston, unloading at that point to barges that carried the grain as usual through the St. Lawrence Canals to Montreal, and the total rate from Duluth to Montreal was 5½ cents per bushel. Mr. Fisher concludes that if the voyage could have been completed without breaking bulk, the cargo could have been carried for 5 cents per bushel, &c., &c.”

It would be well to read that editorial along with the paragraph nearly at the end of page 41 of the pamphlet I have mentioned—“Algoma Farmers Testify”:—“A settler coming to Algoma can never be at the mercy of railways or of combines. If you do not know what we mean, go and reside in some country at a distance from the great lakes, and you will find out what we mean—that is if you have any produce to ship or to sell. You will find that the railway carriers when they have not to meet the competition of steamers and sailing vessels take all or nearly all the profit, very little being left for the ‘producer,’ &c.” These figures speak for themselves. So I think the settler who means to emigrate from his old home can take for granted that even if at any time in the future the present good home markets in the district came to an end, and even if he had to become an exporter of what he raised and grew in Algoma, he would always have the freight in his favour; if he goes further west he will have the freight against him, and the further he goes from the markets of the world the more freight he must pay on any produce he may wish or have to sell.

And even if the lands further west were more fertile than the lands in Algoma, even if they would grow more produce to the acre, it would still pay a farmer far better to carry on agricultural operations in Algoma than it would in the far west, because in the latter countries nearly his whole profit is eaten up in freight. The railway companies take the profit. The rate per bushel from any port in Algoma to Montreal is only about 5 cents. But we cannot at present commence to supply our own home market in Algoma, and for the reasons I have stated, it will be many years, at any rate, before the people of Algoma can ever become exporters.

As to the agricultural capabilities of Algoma, this country can compare favourably with other countries. All kinds of grain can be

raised in abundance, and the root crop excels anything I have seen in the province of Ontario, and for grasses and hay it cannot be beaten. For sheep and cattle raising Eastern Algoma offers inducements and opportunities to the man of small means which no other field of immigration that I am aware of does or can offer.

As to the rapidity of the growth in summer, I have seen trees growing on land in the month of March, I have seen them cut down off the same land in March, and the land cleared off and sown in May, and off the same land came 30 bushels of spring wheat to the acre, harvested in the month of September, and this was new land.

If anyone, after reading the evidence of the settlers, compiled in the pamphlet I have mentioned, and after reading the many letters which have recently appeared in the public press, has any doubts about the agricultural capabilities and resources of Eastern Algoma, they should attend the fall exhibitions of the different agricultural societies, held through the district, perhaps in particular the district fall exhibition at Sault Ste. Marie, or they should see the exhibit from Algoma of grains, roots, fruits, and grasses, which was collected by Professor Robertson, the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, and N. Awrey, Esq., M.P.P., the Ontario World's Fair Commissioner, and which may be seen at the World's Fair at Chicago.

I will be glad to answer anybody who writes me on the subject of immigration to Algoma, and if anybody wishes it, I will send to him a copy of the pamphlet I have mentioned.

I am glad to be able to say that the Ontario Government are assisting to help on "the colonisation and immigration movement in Algoma," and copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from the Crown Lands Department at Toronto, Ontario, and the Ontario Government are adopting a very liberal colonisation road policy. They are opening up new roads as the settlement of the country progresses, and keeping abreast of the settlement. I am glad to notice that in the pamphlet recently issued by the Ontario Government, "Ontario as a Home for the British Tenant Farmer," Algoma is favourably mentioned as a desirable home for "Tenant farmers and others with a little means or capital, and a good practical knowledge of farming or stock-raising; men who understand it as a business, and who have a little money to buy good stock and implements and get well started." (Pages 43 and 44.)

The pamphlet "Algoma Farmers Testify" can also be obtained from Fred. Rogers, Esq., D.C.L., barrister, &c., Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the Director of the Eastern Algoma Agricultural Society, who compiled the same.

From Messrs. ALLAN, HUGHES, THOMPSON, & ROGERSON,
Sault Ste. Marie P.O., Ontario.

As we are anxious to get settlers into these townships, and as we are willing to give information to anyone who writes us on the subject, we beg to send you the following few lines:—

This section is beautifully situated on the south shore of Goulais Bay, is heavily timbered and well watered, abounding with springs

and spring creeks. Hardwood, such as birch and maple, including frequently bird's-eye maple, are especially plentiful, and afford excellent advantages in the cordwood trade and for merchantable purposes, as the shipping can be all done by water. We understand hardwood is coming into demand in older Canada and in the United States for manufacturing purposes, flooring, cabinet work, &c. It should be generally known that manufacturers or hardwood saw-mill men can get all the birch and maple they want in the townships around Sault Ste. Marie, and also on St. Joseph Island. Pulpwood is also abundant in Prince, Dennis, and Pennefather—we mean paper-fibre wood, poplar, balsam, spruce, &c.—quite a trade being carried on in that line already.

As to agriculture and farming generally, we can assure our friends in older Canada that this part of Algoma (and we believe the whole of Eastern Algoma, but we are now only speaking of these three townships, which we know better than the rest, of course) is well adapted for stock-raising, both sheep and cattle, for which we always have a ready market, and for growing timothy and clover and roots of all kinds the country is unsurpassed. Grain of all kinds does well here; both spring and fall wheat have been grown, and are a sure crop, but owing to the want of a grist mill no quantity has ever been raised, but now that the water-power canal at the Sault will soon be completed, and mills erected thereon, we hope that difficulty will be removed and wheat be grown in abundance, as we are satisfied it can be anywhere on the north shore between the valley of the Montreal River on the west and the valley of the Mississagua on the east, and also the valley of the Spanish River, and on the fertile island of St. Joseph. Fruit can be grown successfully, apples—crab-apples, and all kinds of small fruits. Black currants and strawberries do especially well, and in their season we have a splendid supply of wild fruit, such as raspberries, huckle berries, &c., &c. Summer frosts in this locality are unknown. As to markets, our market, which is at the Sault, is a good one, as we always get ready sale and good prices for any produce we may take in. Butter is now (March 28th) 35 cents at the Sault, hardly ever below 25 cents a pound at any time in the year; potatoes are now 75 cents a bushel, never less than 50 cents; oats generally 50 cents a bushel, frequently a good deal higher; hay generally \$10 or \$12 per ton; eggs 30 cents a doz. now—they always fetch a good price. We would ask the farmers in older Canada, and also in Manitoba, who are complaining of want of markets and low prices—starvation prices—to look at the above figures, and if they doubt what we say let them write to any merchant at Sault Ste. Marie or to any butcher there.

In conclusion, we would say to anyone wishing to make themselves a home that there are a great many advantages here over other new countries, and that with small means they would not find it hard to better themselves. This is the country in which industrious farmers with small capital can get on. It is our opinion that any one coming here with a knowledge of farming, willing hands, and not less than \$200.00 in cash (as much more as possible, of course; the more money a man has the better start he can get; this stands to reason) can do well on any of the many free grants to be got; and there are, of course, also partially-improved farms which can be purchased on reasonable terms.

As to the Government lands the lands in Dennis and Pennefather are Indian lands, and the settler pays 50 cents an acre and lives on the land three years and clears at least 15 acres of land, and puts up a house, and then he gets his patent. The Indian land agent is William Van Abbott, Esq., Sault Ste. Marie. The Government lands in Prince are Ontario Crown lands, and the settler has to live five years on free grant land in Prince, clear 15 acres, and put up a house before he gets his patent. But there are patented lands which can be bought on reasonable terms and also the rights of locatees. Any person or persons desirous of obtaining any further information will be gladly communicated with by the undersigned. We forgot to say that the Ontario Crown land agent for Prince Township is William Turner, Esq., Sault Ste. Marie, who wrote an admirable letter to the public Press some weeks ago on the subject of the colonisation of Eastern Algoma. Whilst we have written this letter with the particular object of trying to settle the townships in which we are living—Prince, Dennis, and Pennefather—we do not wish to ignore the advantages offered by other portions of the district of Eastern Algoma, but personally we do not know anything about the rest of the district. Reliable information as to the whole district, or any part of it, may be obtained from John Dawson, Esq., President, or William Brown, Esq., Secretary, of the Eastern Algoma Electoral Division Agricultural Society; or from Fred. Rogers, Esq., D.C.L., barrister, &c., Secretary of the recently-formed Algoma Colonisation Society, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. People interested in St. Joseph Island can get reliable information as to that large and fertile island on application to George Hamilton, Esq., Crown Land Agent, Richard's Landing, Algoma; and Mr. W. L. Nichols, Crown Land Agent at Thessalon, would give reliable information as to townships lying around Thessalon.

From Mr. GEORGE HAMILTON, Crown Land Agent,
Richard's Landing, St. Joseph Island, Ontario.

I HAVE, in common with a good many other people in the large district of Algoma, observed, with a great deal of interest, within the last few weeks, that newspapers all over the country are commencing to mention Algoma as a desirable field for immigration and colonisation. People residing at different places in the district have been writing to the newspapers setting out the advantages of their particular part of the district.

Mr. William Turner, the Crown lands agent at Sault Ste. Marie, has written an able letter to the press setting forth the advantages the district offers, as a whole, to the intending settler and immigrant; and on account of the length of time that gentleman has resided in the district, and his official position, his letter should carry considerable weight.

But so far little or nothing has been said or written about the resources and inducements which the island of St. Joseph in particular offers to the incoming settler, and as I have lived on the island for a great many years, and have travelled over it extensively and know it

well, and as I have the honour to be the Crown lands agent under the Government of the Province of Ontario for the island of St. Joseph, I think it well that while so much is being said and written about the district of Algoma in general, I should say a few words about the island of St. Joseph in particular.

The reason the district of Algoma, including this island, remains unsettled, is that the people outside of the district know comparatively nothing about its resources and capabilities, and it is due to the influence of the Press that we have any settlers at all. As a proof of this, I might instance the fact that the settlers on one whole concession line in the island were induced to come here by two or three letters which appeared some years ago in the *Advertiser*, London, Ontario, written by Mr. Duncan, my predecessor as Crown lands agent here. And I hope that the writing and publication of this letter will induce a good many people—some of the landless folk of the world—to come and try their fortunes on this fertile island.

St. Joseph Island contains, according to the Government map, some 89,354 acres of land, and the adjoining island of Campment D'Ours contains 1,306 acres. A large proportion of this acreage is the best arable land, suited for general agriculture, and the balance is all very well adapted for sheep and cattle raising. There are already on the island three incorporated municipalities, with a population of between 2,000 and 3,000 people. There are several settlements on the island, two or three of which in the near future will become villages or towns. Two of the largest of the settlements or villages on the island at present are Marksville (Hilton) and Richard's Landing. These are both on the north side of the island.

The Ontario Government have within the last few years spent considerable money in building colonisation roads on the island, and the municipal councils have also assisted in building and repairing the roads. Of course with a sparse population one cannot expect the roads in a new country to be as good as the roads in older settlements, but the St. Joseph Island roads are far ahead of what the roads in older Ontario were in its early days. People must not think that because this is an island we are isolated. On looking at the map the reader will observe that St. Joseph Island lies close to the mainland. The distance across is very narrow in some places, at the widest point only about seven miles. We are not far from the "Soo Branch" of the Canadian Pacific Railway, it being only about seven miles from Marksville to Bruce Mines railway station, about four or five miles to Stobie station, and about seven miles from Richard's Landing to Tarbutt Crossing railway station. In winter one can drive on the ice to the railway station, and in summer one can go either by sail or row boat. And then of course there are the different lines of steamers that call at the ports of Hilton and Richard's Landing several times a week. The island is not far from Sault Ste. Marie, the district town, Richard's Landing being about 25 miles distant. Sailors' Encampment, on the south side of the island, lies close to the American channel, and all the through steamers pass by that side of the island, and a good many call there. There are several other docks and landing places at which tugs and steamers can and do sometimes call. It will

thus be seen that we are not isolated, and that we have the best of communication with the outside world. There are two or three splendid lines of steamers sailing between Sault Ste. Marie and Owen Sound, Collingwood and the Lower Lake ports, all of which call at Richard's Landing and Marksville. We have a good home market on the island, in common with the rest of Algoma, and we may be said to have a market at our own door for all we can raise or grow.

Most of the settlers now residing on the island, if not all of them, came here without any means or capital at all, and yet they have done very well.

Some few months ago the agricultural societies and farmers' institutes in the district decided to take active measures to bring prominently before the world the inducements which this part of Ontario offered to the intending settler and immigrant. A committee was formed from amongst the directors of these societies and institutes to gather information and statistics for the public information, and a great deal of the information and statistics gathered by this committee were obtained from this island. The results of the labours of this committee have just been published in a book or pamphlet, entitled "Algoma Farmers Testify," and the settlers on this island have largely aided in the writing of this book. To show the reader how well the settlers have done on this island, coming here as they did without any money, I cannot do better than quote from the pamphlet:—

Page 11.—"Land fertile. Yields wheat, peas, and oats. Roots of all kinds do well. Have made more money here in half the time than I ever did in the county of York, and the climate healthier."

"Land fertile. Grows good grain of all kinds; grows good roots also. The very best fruits, such as cherries, plums, currants, and apples. Cattle and sheep do extra well here. Have a large number of bees which do well also. I have handled bees for forty years, and never seen them do as well." This man comes from York County also.

"I am getting along well for a man of small means. I don't know where I could get along better if I was going to farm."

A miller says:—"Have been running a grist mill for a number of years and find the farmers doing well in this part, and also find quality of grain grown first-class."

Page 12.—"I like the island well for its good climate and its great grain-growing capabilities."

"I like the island well. I can do better here than I ever did before I came here. I came from Simcoe County."

"My expenses left me in debt when I came here with my wife and five children. Now I am well off; thank God for it. N.B.—I have a horse and buggy free for my own use. Came from Warwickshire, England. Address, Tenby Bay, St. Joseph Island."

"Came from Wellington County; well pleased with St. Joseph Island, and doing well."

Page 13.—Another man writes that he came from the State of Michigan, and adds:—"After having travelled all over the Western States in search of a home, I came here with small means. I am now doing well with a good stock of cattle, sheep, and horses, my own and all paid for. I prefer this place to any other."

Another man who came from Ontario County says:—"Peas 52, oats 40, wheat 30, buckwheat 25 bushels per acre; this grown on my place."

"Came from Cartwright; 60 bushels oats, 20 wheat, 50 peas to the acre. I grow good apples and other fruit. Am doing well."

"I have been in a great many parts of the country, but I have not seen any place yet to beat Algoma. We have no failure of crops, and a healthy climate."

Four men now living on St. Joseph Island, and originally coming from Middlesex, Oxford, Wellington, and Frontenac respectively, put a bracket opposite the following:—"This is a fine farming country, and is a sportsman's paradise, abounding with all kinds of game and fish."

"Climate particularly adapted for stock."

"Well adapted for stock."

"Have raised the best wheat here I ever did."

At different places through the pamphlet one will notice a good deal of information about this island, and as the pamphlet, in addition, contains a large amount of general information as to the timber, mineral, and other resources of the district, I would advise everyone interested in Algoma to procure and carefully read a copy. I will be glad to send free to anyone writing me for it, a copy of the pamphlet, and copies may be obtained from Fred. Rogers, Esq., D.C.L., barrister, &c., Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, a Director of the Eastern Algoma Agricultural Society, and the Secretary of the Committee I have mentioned.

For the information of people in the old country I would state that the Dominion Government have sent a supply to Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, London, England; and the Ontario Government have sent a supply to Mr. P. Byrne, Agent for the Ontario Government, Liverpool, England. People in the old country can obtain copies from either of these gentlemen by writing to or calling upon them.

My address is "Richard's Landing, St. Joseph Island, Ontario," and I will be happy to give information about this island to anyone who calls upon me, or writes me at any time.

I must not forget to state that this island is well-timbered with different kinds of timber and contains the finest hardwood one could wish to see. Like the rest of the district the island is well-watered, there being springs and spring creeks all over the island.

From Mr. ALEXANDER McDONALD,
Bruce Mines, Ontario.

BEING a Scotsman, and having drifted, more by accident than any thing else, to this new field of immigration, the district of Eastern Algoma, I thought I would like to write a few words about it to my fellow-countrymen in the hope that some of them—many I trust—may take advantage of the many opportunities and inducements offered by this district to the hardworking settler or colonist.

—Until very lately nothing was known about the district at all. Some twelve months ago the Algoma Colonisation Society was formed with the object of endeavouring to bring to the notice of the world the opportunities and inducements this country offers to successful colonisation, and a committee was organised to collect statistics and information from the actual settlers already in the district.

The result of the labours of this committee appears in a very interesting book or pamphlet, entitled “Algoma Farmers Testify,” containing also a map of the district, and information also as to its great timber and mineral resources. Copies of this book may be obtained free on application to Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner for Canada, London, England, or P. Byrne, Esq., the Agent for the Government of Ontario, Liverpool, England. The reader should also obtain from the latter gentleman a copy of an interesting letter concerning Algoma, published in leaflet form, and written by the Crown Land Agent, at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; and the reader can also obtain from Sir Charles Tupper, when it is published, which will be within a few weeks, copies of a pamphlet containing several letters written by prominent settlers in Algoma.

There are several reasons why this country should be preferred by the settler of moderate means, and by the settler of large capital as well, to other fields of immigration, all of which fully appear in the literature I have mentioned. Amongst others, a healthful climate for man and beast; fertility of soil; good home markets for all a farmer, stock-raiser, or fruit-grower can raise or grow; good spring water all over the district—innumerable springs, creeks, lakes, and rivers containing pure sweet water; the fact that the clover is indigenous to the soil and grows everywhere—hence it is the best sheep and cattle-raising country found anywhere; fruit grows well—apples, plums, cherries, and berries of all kinds; easiness of access, Sault Ste. Marie being within twenty hours by rail from Montreal or Toronto, besides being easily reached by several lines of steamers; while there are churches of all denominations, schools, and stores all over the district, and new settlements springing up here and there.

The advantages of Eastern Algoma to the incoming settler are summed up on page 51 of the pamphlet “Algoma Farmers Testify” in the following words:—“What our Algoma farmers testify proves is this, that a farmer, fruit-grower, cattle, or sheep-raiser can come to Algoma with small means and do very well if he has a fair knowledge of the business he is engaged in, and if he is hardworking. As the clerical friend we have quoted says, ‘Algoma is the poor man’s friend;’ he means it is a place where a man can come with small means and do well.”

I will be glad if the newspapers in the old country will re-copy this letter and give its contents as wide a circulation as possible. I will be glad to answer any letter which may be written me; my address is Bruce Mines, Ontario.

From Mr. CHARLES ROONEY.

I was glad to see the letter in your valuable paper last week about Prince, Dennis, and Pennefather Townships.

I have travelled over a good many of the United States—both west, south, and north-west—and I have not seen a better country for general farming purposes than Algoma; as to its capabilities in dairying and cattle-raising I can truthfully say this, it cannot be beat anywhere. I have been all through noted cattle-ranching countries, such as Southern Colorado, Texas, Arizona, Montana, and other States. The last three are very noted cattle-raising countries, and in my opinion Algoma excels them all for the following reasons: the abundance of all kinds of grasses and clover and their rapid growth. The white clover is natural to the soil in Algoma, and is always a sure crop. In the countries I mentioned clover does not grow at all.

Roots are also a sure crop in Algoma, never known to fail. The grass crop in Algoma in my opinion may be truthfully said always to be a sure crop. This year I expect to have two tons of hay to the acre, my oat crop 40 bushels to the acre, and my peas 20 to the acre.

The abundance of water: There is good spring water everywhere in Algoma living springs and creeks wherever you go. Good water is half the battle in cattle-raising. If the reader were living in the states I have mentioned he would know what I mean. The water over all the prairie and plain states is alkali, brackish water—muddy, dirty water. If you want to appreciate good water go there and then return to Algoma. As to markets: Our markets are far better than any place I know of east, west, or south, and I have travelled considerably. I came here from the States to Algoma about three years ago, and I like it very well, and I have talked with settlers all over this country, and have compared notes with them.

As to hog raising: It will pay here very well. You can sell your young pigs, from five to six weeks' old, at \$5 to \$6 a pair right here in my own township, and we have a good market for pork at Sault Ste. Marie all the year round. A better market than they have in Toronto. Hogs are easily raised here, live on clover, and a little chop and one thing and another. My brood sow and pigs run out all summer in the pasture. I sold 18 young pigs this spring at \$5 a pair, and it paid me very well. I raised them from two sows. I am going to keep at that business.

Poultry pays well here, eggs running from 16 cents to 35 cents a dozen. They are 16 cents now (July 23), and in winter up to 35 cents. And as to sheep: the fact of the white clover being here and the excellent water settles that.

I live in West Korah; there is no free grant or 20 cents an acre land left in that township, but there is a township north of me called Pennefather, containing excellent land and open for settlement. There are no settlers at present in the township of Pennefather, and there is room in it for any amount of people; the land is Indian land, open for location and settlement. By going there farmers would only be from 8 to 14 miles from Sault Ste. Marie; good Government road.

I know the land well in the township of Pennefather, having

travelled over a great deal of it. It is a rolling country, splendid hardwood, good, deep, rich soil. In some places, that is along the route of Goulais Bay road, there are ridges of stone, and this deceives a person because there might be a bluff of ten acres of stone on a man's place, and one looking at it might think it was stone all over the man's farm on account of the timber being thick and not being able to see any distance, when as a matter of fact the rest of the farm, 150 acres, might not have a single stone on it. It is this way all over the north shore—the rock is altogether in “bluffs” or “ridges,” the rest of the land pretty free from stone; sometimes there are boulders which can be easily removed.

The Goulais Bay road at present is the only road running from the Sault into Pennefather township until the town line between Korah and Pennefather is opened. The Goulais Bay road is built along the bluff or ridge of rock all the way through, and to travel on it it gives a person a wrong impression of the country. In driving to Goulais Bay from the Sault one would think it a very rough country, but a few yards back on either side of the road the bluff ceases, and there is good rich soil and free of stone. But even the rocky bluff makes excellent pasture land; the white clover grows there naturally, and the broken land on a man's farm in Algoma is always valuable for pasture.

The settlement of the township of Pennefather has been delayed owing to its rough appearance from the road. If people want to see what the township is, they must leave the Goulais Bay road and not judge by the land on each side of it, as it is built along the rocky ridge or bluff all the way from West Korah to the height of land. To see the township of Pennefather one should go up the town line by Hodge and Allard's farms; they lie near the town line of Korah and Pennefather. As I said, there is room in the township for any amount of settlers, and I will be glad to give any information in my power about it, if anyone will call on me at my farm in West Korah, or write me to Sault Ste. Marie Post Office. I won't think it any trouble. They might also write to or call on Wm. Allard, West Korah, Sault Ste. Marie P.O., Ontario.

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In connection with what Mr. Rooney says about the broken and rough appearance of Algoma, the following remarks were made editorially in a local paper of a recent date:—

“We then said ‘and there is not a hundred acres that is not watered by living streams, nor is there a settler's farm that is not benefited to the extent of at least \$100 per year by having the broken land lying near for pasturage. Increased attention is being paid to cattle and sheep, and a splendid market for lambs is found at Buffalo, while Toronto buyers appreciate the Algoma cattle.’”

From Mr. HORACE HODGE,
Sault Ste. Marie P.O. or Korah P.O., Algoma, Ontario.

I HAVE much pleasure in corroborating Mr. Rooney's above statements, which I have just read in my paper. I came from Kent, England, near Maidstone. I will be glad to answer any letters about Pennefather or the neighbourhood. I hope people in Kent, England, will write me. This is a good country; and I advise English tenant farmers to come and buy land and settle in Algoma, and not go out on the bleak prairie and plains where they won't find good water or wood. I live on the town line of Korah and Pennefather and I was the first settler in Korah. I had to cut the road when I went in, 16 years ago, and carry flour on my back and suffer hardship. Now everything is different—good roads and a large town nine or ten miles off.

From Mr. ANDREW CLARK, Iron Bridge, Algoma District.

As I very seldom see in your paper, or any other paper, anything about Algoma, I will send the following, which may be of some interest to you, and perhaps to some of your readers, who intend going to some new country to try and better their position:—In the first place, regarding the size of Algoma, I might say it is by far the larger part of Ontario, with thousands of acres of first-class soil that would support a large population if cleared and properly farmed. I have been up here two years, and during that time I have seen and raised as fine crops of peas and oats as I ever saw grown in Huron, and for roots of all descriptions it cannot be surpassed in any country. The reason that Algoma does not advance more rapidly than it does are as follows:—The farmers who came to Algoma were all poor and generally had large families, consequently they could not stay on their farms and improve them, but had to work in the lumber camps to make money to buy flour and other necessaries of life. And the second reason is that the men on the farms do not depend on their crops, but on the timber, for which they receive good prices, and instead of clearing their land they are in the lumber camps, or are taking out ties, paper, wood, or logs, and neglect their farms, and until the timber along the lakes and rivers is all taken away Algoma will never be a farming country. But I am certain if men would lay aside lumbering and attend to their farms, they would be in far better circumstances than they are at the present, because for what they raise they obtain the highest price. Some people run away with the idea that the whole district is a rock-bound, cold country, inhabited by Indians and wild animals. But that is not the case, as the climate here is superior to that of Huron in many respects. It is a little colder, but it is far drier and more healthy, and the summer is not so hot, and there is as much difference between the fall season of here and the fall season of Huron as between day and night, as we never have those wet, foggy days, but always dry and bright, and the longer a man is here the better he likes it.

From Mr. CHARLES VENN, Laird Township, Algoma.

It is strange that so little is known about the district of Algoma, and the little that is known speaks of mountains and broken country. This is partly true, but there are townships and valleys between the mountains of the best land for agricultural purposes, equal to the best land in Ontario. For instance, when one makes a voyage on one of the steamers from any port on Lake Huron to Port Finlay, Algoma, and travels the Government roads through the townships of Tarbutt and Laird, he will pass through a fine country, farms on both sides of the road, near stores, churches, and schools. The land bears heavy crops in both sorts of wheat, peas, oats, and barley when properly worked, as the soil is a heavy clay, but when once broken the work of ploughing is easier with every year. At present there are no thistles, wild oats, or obnoxious weeds in the land, and a careful farmer will take care to keep the land clean. The climate is very healthy, and in some respects superior to any other part of Ontario: there are no disastrous storms, no drought, no wet season (I speak from 12 years' experience), and there is the best of drinking water. People who can command from \$800 to \$3,000 can buy second-hand farms from 80 to 240 acres, with clearings from 20 to 60 acres. Taking out wood, ties, and saw logs is the winter work, as there is a great demand, and every farmer is busy and earns from \$200 to \$500. Anyone who intends to come here to buy a farm should come in the spring, or later, and look for himself. The cost from any port east of Lake Huron to Port Finlay by steamer is about \$5, and if he will come to my place, I am ready to give information as far as I can.

From Mr. JOSHUA ADAMS, Sarnia, Ontario.

I QUITE agree with Mr. Venn's account, in his letter in the *Daily Globe*, of the lands in portions of Algoma for agricultural purposes. As seen from the deck of a steamer, the whole coast line of the north shore of the Georgian Bay to the head of Lake George is very rocky and leads to the conclusion that the whole country is of a similar character. Yet there are, a short distance back from the shore, large stretches of good agricultural lands extending from Blind River (and quite likely east of that point also) all along the north shore to Sault Ste. Marie. About a mile back from Port Finlay, there are new farms of as rich, loamy soil and as easily cultivated as are to be found in the best sections of Ontario. Easy access is had to these lands by the Government roads, and also by the Canadian Pacific Railway (Sault Branch), which has stations at easy distances. In some localities, the timber is principally spruce, balsam, and mixed maple and other woods, and all of it is now valuable for fibre, pulp and other economic purposes. In three or five years after clearing the land, nearly all of the stumps can be easily removed, leaving the land as free of stumps as any farm in other portions of Ontario that has taken, at least, ten years to get into that condition. In some localities the soil may be a heavy clay, as Mr. Venn

states, but in the township of Tarbutt, Tarbutt additional, a part of Laird and, I believe, in Johnston and other townships, the soil is loamy, rich, easily cultivated and drained. I am greatly surprised that so many farmers go to the north-west, when such good lands so near at hand, and easily reached, can be had at a very cheap rate, and that can be made into excellent farms and homes in so short a time.

From Mrs. B. STICKLEY, MacLennan P.O., Algoma, formerly of
Worcestershire, England.

THE kind of farmers who should come here in my opinion and who would do well here are the working tenant farmers of England. Farmers who have capital in England to work a 100 acre farm, could buy and stock in this country a good farm of 160 acres. That is, I mean the capital which would be needed to work a farm in England of 100 acres would buy outright, and well stock a farm of 160 acres in Algoma, either on the main land, or the islands; and furthermore, there is already a valuable crop already planted by nature, I mean the valuable timber of different kinds, hard wood and soft wood, pulp (paper fibre wood). This is one of the advantages of farming in a timbered country. I like the climate both in summer and winter, and would not want to live anywhere else. . . . If anyone doubts what I say let them write me to McLennan Post Office, or come to my farm in Tarbutt. My nearest steamship port is Port Finlay about two miles from my farm; nearest railway station is Tarbutt Crossing on the Sault branch of the C. P. R., about four miles from my farm. I will be glad to give or write any information I can to intending settlers either from England or Canada.

☞ Since the above letter appeared in the press, we are very sorry to say the writer died. Her husband, however (Thomas Stickley), still lives in Tarbutt Township, and will be glad to answer any letters, or give any information to anyone who may personally call on him.

From JAS. D. AINSLIE, J.P., Reeve of Burpee T.P., formerly of
Roxburgh, Scotland, and who was for several years engaged in
Sheep-raising in Australia.

I UNDERSTAND sheep raising; have followed it all my life. Since I have been in Burpee Township I have never known a case of 'foot rot' in Algoma nor 'liver worms.' I don't know of any sheep disease or cattle disease in Algoma. I never knew cattle or sheep to die in Algoma, except from accident. Without doubt, I believe this is the healthiest place for stock of all kinds and sheep. In fact, speaking generally, I think Algoma the healthiest climate in the world: the winters, I consider very healthy, both for man, and stock, and sheep. The air is exhilarating and dry in winter. In summer it is

never very hot, the nights are always cool, and very heavy dews as a general thing. One cause why the climate is moist in summer, is the presence of so much fresh water in and all around Algoma, the big lakes—really inland seas—and so many inland rivers, lakes and streams. There is abundance of good water for man and beast. The moist temperature keeps the grass and herbage green and luxuriant all summer.

This gentleman enlarges at length on the fact of the clover being indigenous to the soil and the great advantage it is to sheep-raising.

He says further:—Industrious men have always succeeded here, even if they had no capital, and I can tell you dozens of them in Algoma. As to fruit, I have a good orchard of apples (some are seedlings grafted by me and some are from nurseries), plums, and cherries; they are all thrifty trees. My trees have been bearing for some years.

**From Mr. WILLIAM ALLARD, Township Korah, Sault Ste. Marie
P.O., Ontario.**

WITH reference to the township of Pennefather I have much pleasure in corroborating the statements made by Mr. Chas. Rooney. I live on the town line between Korah and Pennefather townships. I have lived there seven years. My farm was a free grant when I took it up, and am doing very well and am satisfied with the country. I can grow all sorts of grain on my farm, fall and spring wheat, barley, oats, &c., and have made a success with all of them; also with roots. It is a great stock-raising country. My land is of the same character as that in Pennefather; hardwood is becoming very valuable, and one can always get a good market for it at Sault Ste. Marie. I put a big value on the hardwood on my farm; it would take a lot of money to buy the hardwood alone from me; I consider it a valuable crop in itself, and anyone settling in Pennefather can get land for 50 cents an acre from the Indian department, subject of course to settlement duties, and their land would be just as good as mine. I want to get settlers in Pennefather township so as to have neighbours to the north of me. As Mr. Rooney says the country has a rough appearance from the Goulais Bay Road, and one must not judge the land from its appearance. If anyone will come to my farm on the town-line I will be glad to walk over the land in the neighbourhood with them, and give them all the information I can. It is only nine miles from the town to my farm, and there is a whole township waiting settlement, six miles square, lying just north of my farm; and if anyone writes me letters to Sault Ste. Marie P.O. I will be glad to answer them.