

THE
RAINY RIVER DISTRICT,
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, CANADA.

AN ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTION OF ITS SOIL, CLIMATE, PRODUCTS, AREA,
AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES AND TIMBER AND MINERAL RESOURCES.

TOGETHER WITH
INFORMATION PERTAINING TO FREE GRANTS AND HOMESTEADS, AND TO MINING

COMPILED BY
FRANK YEIGH,
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

BY DIRECTION OF
HON. A. S. HARDY,
COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

1894.

THIRD EDITION.



TORONTO:
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THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT.

INTRODUCTION.

Until recent years the Rainy River country was practically a *terra incognita* known only in a vague way as a paradise for the sportsman, and as the home of several Indian tribes. Although for a century past occasional travellers have penned glowing descriptions of the natural beauty and capabilities of the country, yet these did not attract the attention of the general public, and it was not until the settlement of the dispute between the Dominion Government and the Manitoba and Ontario Governments, in favor of the latter, as to which had jurisdiction over the great area of country, (including the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake and River,) that attention was directed to the territory as a possible field for settlement, although a few settlers had found their way there as early as 1874. Since that time all doubts as to the suitability of the valley of Rainy River for agricultural purposes have been removed by the hundreds of pioneers who have made and are making homes on its banks, by their own evidence to the soil and the favorable climatic and natural advantages of the country, and by the evidence, equally as strong, of those who have visited the locality and carefully examined its conditions and prospects. A few of these results and opinions are given elsewhere.

It has therefore been fully established and demonstrated that no part of the Dominion offers better advantages to the farmer immigrant or the man who desires to hew out a home in a new country, than the Rainy River District. In its agricultural capabilities, by reason of the high quality and rich productivity of its soil; in its situation in the heart of a series of magnificent and navigable waterways; in its healthful and equable climatic conditions; in the comparative ease with which the virgin land can be cleared and tilled; in the continually increasing facilities for the marketing of surplus products; in the remunerative employment during the winter months in connection with the extensive lumbering operations; in the evidence of great mineral wealth; in its possibilities of stock-raising and sheep-farming; in the free granting of farm lands by the Government; and in the building of colonization roads and bridges as settlement warrants it, the District presents attractions possessed by few and certainly not surpassed by any other part of Canada. As in all pioneer work, intelligent and continued industry is

the essential of and the sure road to success. Where hundreds are now building up a comfortable home and ensuring a future competence, there is room for thousands along the banks of this beautiful river ; where, through the liberality of the Government, a hundred acres have been granted free to new comers, thousands of acres equally fertile may be had for the asking by bona fide settlers.

With all its exceptional advantages, therefore, of soil, climate and situation, one is safe in predicting that before many years have elapsed the Canadian banks of the Rainy River will be the home of a happy and prosperous community, numbering its tens of thousands and shipping its surplus products of farm and forest to assist in supplying the ever increasing needs of the world.

A new map of the District will be found attached hereto.

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT.

THE AREA AND BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICT.

The total area of the Rainy River District is estimated to be 22,500 square miles, and comprises all that part of Western Algoma lying west of the 91st meridian of west longitude. It is bounded on the south by the State of Minnesota, and upon the north and west by the Province of Manitoba; while the southern boundary is naturally defined by the Rainy River, from the 91st meridian to the mouth of said river, whence it follows the United States boundary to the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods; thence the boundary (adjoining Manitoba) is due north to the English River and along that stream to Lac Suel, or Lac St. Joseph, to the point of intersection with the 91st meridian of longitude west from Greenwich. In a word, this most important section of the Province may be said to lie between the height of land west of Lake Superior, and the Winnipeg River. The Canadian Pacific Railway runs through 215 miles of its territory. It has an average breadth of about 100 miles, not including the sterile region lying north of the C. P. R. The agricultural portion of the District may be roughly estimated to comprise an area of 600,000 acres, capable of sustaining a farming population of thousands.

How to Reach the District.

Rat Portage, the chief town in the Rainy River District, is the most accessible point of entrance to the District, it being on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and at the northern extremity of the Lake of the Woods. It is 300 miles north-west of Port Arthur and 1,154 miles from Toronto. The traveller has the choice of three routes from Toronto to Port Arthur, from which point the Canadian Pacific Railway is taken to Rat Portage where a line of steamers start for the Rainy River. The routes and fares are as follows:

Toronto to Rat Portage:

(1) Via Canadian Pacific Railway, first-class fare (all rail, 1,154 miles) ..	\$34 60
Colonist fare	21 00
(2) Via Canadian Pacific Railway to Owen Sound, steamer to Port Arthur, rail to Rat Portage, first-class fare	33 35*
Colonist fare	17 00†
(3) Via Grand Trunk Railway to Sarnia, steamer to Port Arthur, C. P. Railway to Rat Portage, first-class fare	29 35‡
Colonist fare	16 00§

Rat Portage to Fort Francis P. O.:

Fare via Steamer Shamrock, on Lake of the Woods: adults, \$4; children, \$2.50 cattle and horses per head, \$4; colonists' outfit of household goods, \$8 per ton; ordinary supplies (provisions), \$10 per ton.

*Including meals on boat.

†No meals.

‡Including meals on boat.

§No meals.

Rat Portage to Marsh's Dock :

Via Steamer Shamrock : adults, \$3 ; children, \$2 ; cattle and horses per head \$3 ; household goods, \$4 per ton ; provisions, \$5 per ton.

Freight rate by Canadian Pacific Railway, Toronto to Rat Portage, \$4 per ton.

When to go and Outfit Required.

The settler should, if possible, reach Rainy River in April or May. If he has not secured a location beforehand through one of the Government free grant agents, he should on arrival, call upon the nearest agent, get a list of the vacant lots in the township where he desires to locate and then visit the locality and make a choice as soon as possible.

It is somewhat difficult to state definitely the amount of capital required by the settler or immigrant who intends to make the Rainy River District his home. Having secured the Government free grant, under the conditions set forth elsewhere, and having arrived at Rainy River, the prospective settler should have enough capital to erect a small and temporary log house, or a frame one if possible, building material being for sale at different points along the river where mills are situated. The approximate price of a necessary outfit might be stated as follows : For a single man, one yoke oxen, \$115 ; plough, harrow, etc., \$40 ; lumber, doors, windows, etc., for log house, \$50 ; provisions, \$100 ; seed, \$30 ; bedding, etc., \$20, or say \$350 in all. This sum would, of course, be necessarily increased in the case of a farmer with a family. For a family of five, \$200 or \$250 should be added to the former sum. Excellent general stores will be found at Fort Francis, Rainy River and other points, where all the necessaries in the way of groceries, clothing, household utensils, etc., may be procured at reasonable prices. A general store will also be found on river lots 43 and 44 in the Township of Lash, where settlers can land and get general information.

The Quality of the Soil.

As has been stated, Rainy River takes its course through a rich alluvial valley for over eighty miles. This valley is eminently adapted to support a large and populous agricultural population. As to the extent of the cultivatable land in the District, it is stated on good authority that all the land fronting on the Canadian side of the river is suitable for settlement, while the arable area reaches back to a distance varying from 10 to 20 miles, where the soil is mostly clay and clay loam, with very little gravel or sand.

The greater part of the arable land requires but little drainage ; even the occasional swamps of spruce, cedar and tamarac are dry in summer, and can be made most excellent land by drainage, and as they are all at a considerable height above the river level proper ditching would remove the surface water in the spring. The beds of the small creeks and streams are deep enough to provide adequate outlets, ditches and drains. The area of good land along Rainy River is also remarkably free from stones and rocks.

A Wide Range of Products.

The richness of the soil and the equable climate combine to produce a good range of cereals and fruits. Hay, oats and spring and fall wheat are successfully grown ; the products of the garden include potatoes, onions, corn, carrots, turnips, tomatoes and cabbage, while the smaller fruits, such as raspberries, strawberries and plums, grow in abundance.

As an instance of the length of the season, oats sown as late as the middle of June have fully ripened. The settler who makes the above statement has lived on the bank of Rainy River for thirteen years and has never had a failure of crops. During the summer of 1889 his farm yielded seventy bushels of potatoes from one bushel of seed. A practical experience such as this illustrates most forcibly the fertility of the soil. The market for all a farmer can raise is at his door, the large number of lumbermen in the district being the purchasers. Good prices for grain and produce prevail, the lumbermen purchasing all kinds of produce at the highest prices.

The Climate

The climate of the district is similar to that in the region of Lake Ontario. Though the winter may be colder, it is proportionately dryer, and instead of the rain and slush of the eastern winter excellent sleighing continues from December to March. The climate has been proven to be very healthful by the settlers, while, as is pointed out elsewhere, it is well suited to the growth of a wide range of cereals. The whole flora of this region also indicates a climate very like that of the old settled parts of Ontario, and the luxuriance of the vegetation shews that the soil is of the very best quality. Throughout the whole of the region from Lake Nipissing to the Lake of the Woods the depth of snow is generally less, on an average, than it is at the City of Ottawa. Only in one locality between these two points is the snow found generally as deep as at this city, namely, in the immediate neighborhood of Lake Superior, where the lake appears to have a local influence on the humidity of the atmosphere and, in consequence, on the amount of snowfall.

The name Rainy River is really a misnomer, inasmuch as the rainfall is not usually excessive. One of the settlers thus describes the climate: "The summer is generally moist, with clear sunshine most of the time. The fall is beautiful, and November all through about the best month of the year. The spring is similar—very dry, with bright clear sun until about the first of June. The winters are very dry. The snow is loose, yet it seldom drifts. I have not seen what I would call a snowdrift yet. A log or stump on the level land shows all through winter. Sometimes I think I will never require another overcoat. I have so seldom worn one that, apparently, the one I have will last my lifetime. On the very coldest days, except for a short time at sunrise, we can chop in the woods the day through." "There is something remarkable about the climate," writes another settler in the *Toronto Globe* of April 2nd, 1892. "Summer is generally moist, and spring, fall and winter exceedingly dry, and so agreeable to the health of both man and beast that sickness and disease are comparatively unknown. The past fall and winter so far have been beautiful. October and November were, as usual, very fine up to the last week of November, when for three or four days we had sufficient frost to partially ice the river over. A couple of days and nights of rain followed, which surprised the oldest settlers. This month, so far, the river has been open for fully 40 miles at the upper end, and people have been travelling by boats and canoes thereon. Last week we were logging and burning a fallow. So far we have had only a very thin scattering of snow, not enough to cover the ground, and we have bare ground now almost all over."

The Progress of Settlement.

The great advantages of this District, especially with regard to water and wood over a prairie country, have attracted a number of settlers from the adjacent States as well as many parts of the Dominion and Great Britain. Already there is a white population in the District of nearly 7,000, and an Indian population of 2,800 on Government Reserves. Some of the settlers have been on their lands since 1874, and have good houses and barns, large clearances, good fences, and well-bred stock. The

Ontario Government gives a Free Grant to every *bona fide* settler, head of a family, male or female, 160 acres of land, and if he desires, will sell him an additional 80 acres adjoining at \$1 per acre, payable in three years, while any or all of their sons over 18 years of age may have 120 acres free and may purchase 80 acres each at \$1 an acre.

On February 13, 1889, a proclamation was issued by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, bringing into force on February 18, 1889, the Act respecting Free Grants and Homesteads to actual settlers on Public Lands in the district of Rainy River, which was passed during the session of the Legislature held in 1886. Immediately following this proclamation, the Department of Crown Lands set apart twenty townships in the district as Free Grant Townships. They are situate on the Canadian bank of the Rainy River and contain the choicest and most fertile land to be found in the district, each township having a frontage on the river.

The surveys made in 1876 by the Dominion Government (on the one mile square section plan, the same as has been followed in the North-West) have been adopted by the Ontario Legislature which legalized these surveys by the Act of 1886, and provided that any lands in the Rainy River District considered suitable for settlement and cultivation may, by Order in Council, be appropriated as Free Grants upon the terms specified.

Three new townships were surveyed near the mouth of Rainy River during 1892 and 1893, viz. : Spohn, McCrosson and Pratt, but they are not yet open for settlement.

Railway Facilities.

For some years the Rainy River District has had the advantage of the Canadian Pacific Railway which runs through it diagonally, stopping at the following stations: English River, Martin, Bonheur, Ignace, Raleigh, Toche, Wabigoon, Barclay, Eagle River, Vermillion Bay, Gilbert, Parrywood, Hawk Lake, Rossland, Rat Portage, Keewatin, Deception, Kalmar and Ingolf.

The Port Arthur and Western Railway, eighty miles of which have been subsidized by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario at the rate of \$3,000 per mile, is practically completed and runs through the southern portion of the Thunder Bay District. This new line will open up large tracts of good agricultural lands, forests of the finest timber such as pine, tamarac, spruce, cedar and poplar, as well as mineral lands already proven to be rich in gold, silver and iron, the development of which only awaits further railway facilities.

Navigation and Mail Service.

Rainy River being navigable for eighty miles, adequate means for transportation over its waters was provided through the enterprise of those who realized the great possibilities of this region, as soon as the tide of settlement turned to its shores. Four steamers run regularly during the season (which lasts from April until November), from Rat Portage and Keewatin on the Canadian Pacific Railway across the Lake of the Woods to Fort Francis on the southern side of Rainy Lake, a distance of 180 miles. Round trips are made weekly. There are in all thirty-five craft of different kinds, including 23 steamers, in service in the district, representing a capital of about \$200,000. The gross tonnage of the steamers is about 1,300 tons. The other lakes and rivers in the district have long stretches of navigable water which will materially aid in settlement.

During the winter the mail is carried on sleighs, leaving Rat Portage for Fort Francis on the first and fifteenth of every month, calling at the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Louise at the mouth of Rainy River, at Hughes & Co.'s saw mill in the township of Atwood, at Rapid River post office in the township of Worthington, at Rainy River

post office in the township of Morley, at Emo post office in the township of Lash, at Big Forks post office in the township of Woodyatt, and at Isherwood post office in the township of Roddick. A new and shorter winter trail from Rat Portage to Rainy River was laid last year which will shorten the distance by about twenty-five miles.

The lock at Fort Francis when completed will consist of a canal 800 feet long, cut through the solid rock, about 40 feet wide, with one lift of 24 feet 8 inches. The chamber of the lock will be 200 feet long and 38 feet wide in the clear. The completion of the lock will greatly benefit Fort Francis and the lumbermen who would use it.

Lake of the Woods.

Of the numerous lakes in this district, the Lake of the Woods is the most extensive. From Lac Plat, which may be regarded as its western extremity, to White Fish Lake, which is a somewhat similar extension in an opposite direction, the distance is not far short of 100 miles, and from the mouth of Rainy River, at the entrance of the lake, to its outlet at Rat Portage, in lat. $49^{\circ} 47'$, north and along $94^{\circ} 44'$ west, the distance is about seventy miles, so that altogether it occupies an area of about sixteen hundred square miles. This extensive sheet of water is interspersed with islands, on some of which the Indians have grown maize from time immemorial, and have never known it fail. It would be difficult to conceive anything more beautiful of its kind than the scenery of this lake. Islands rise in continuous clusters, and in every variety of form. Sometimes in passing through them the prospect seems entirely shut in; soon again it opens out, and through long vistas a glance is obtained of an ocean-like expanse, where the waters meet the horizon.

Schools and Churches.

There are good schools for white children at Fort Francis, Emo, Big Forks, Marsh's, Pine River, Rat Portage, Keewatin and Norman. At Fort Francis Indian Reserve, at Kitchechokeyo Reserve, in the township of Woodyatt, at the Indian Reserve in Barwick Manitou Rapids) and at Roseberry (near the Long Sault Rapids) are Indian schools under able teachers. Religious privileges will no doubt be provided as population centres and villages are being formed. The Government Poor School grant of \$100 a year is made to the schools already organized.

Fish and Game.

To the sportsman this part of Ontario is indeed a "happy hunting ground." The waters abound in fish, and wild fowl are very plentiful. The moose are unfortunately becoming very scarce in the District. Buffalo were seen by early settlers near Rainy River but have since disappeared. The common brown bear and the more rare and beautiful silver fox are among the denizens of North-western Ontario. Beaver abound in the streams and creeks, while the otter, ermine and mink are plentiful. Partridge, grouse and water fowl of all kinds are also extremely numerous. A large fishery outfit and fish freezer has been erected at Rat Portage from which extensive shipments are annually made to outside markets.

Colonization Roads and Bridges.

Since the Rainy River District came under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature, the Government has adopted a liberal policy regarding the construction of colonization roads and bridges within its borders. About \$60,000 has been expended

since 1885 on the leading highways, and about ninety miles of roadway have been built, viz., the Rat Portage and Keewatin Road, (which is five miles in length and serves the towns of Rat Portage, Keewatin and neighboring localities) and the Rainy River road which is some seventy miles in length and follows the course of Rainy River on the Canadian bank from Fort Francis to the Lake of the Woods with other branch roads. The Rat Portage and Keewatin Road necessitated the building of three large bridges across the main outlet of the Winnipeg River. The estimates of 1894 contain a further vote of \$6,500 for additional roads in the vicinity of Rainy River. It will thus be seen that the Government is alive to the interests of the settlers in this regard. A dock and freight shed have been erected at a point on the river near Fort Francis for the convenience of settlers on their arrival, where their goods may be temporarily stored.

The Timber Resources of the District.

One of the most valuable resources in Rainy River District is its timber, extending along the entire length of Rainy River, of pine, poplar, birch, basswood, oak, elm, ash, soft maple, balm of gilead, balsam, spruce, cedar and tamarac. Between Sagimaga, Seine and Maligne rivers there are extensive forests of red and white pine. Occasional white pine appears in the beautiful valley of Rainy River and on the innumerable islands of the Lake of the Woods.

Lumbering operations are carried on to a considerable extent on Rainy Lake and its eastern tributaries and Lake of the Woods. There are also well-equipped saw-mills on Rainy River where the incoming settler may procure the necessary material for the erection of a home, and where he has the additional advantage of obtaining employment during the winter months at wages ranging from \$25 to \$30 per month, and from \$2 to \$2.50 per day with board for team and teamster. On the banks of the Seine and other rivers flowing into Rainy Lake, there is a very large growth of both red and white pine.

The Dominion Public Works report of 1875, in dealing with the pine-growing capacities of this region, says that extensive groves of red and white pine are to be found, of a size and quality well adapted to all the purposes for which such timber is usually applied. On the alluvial belt of Rainy River white pine of a large size is to be seen interspersed with other descriptions of forest trees, and on the Lake of the Woods and mainland to north and east there are occasionally pine groves of moderate extent, which lessens in quantity as it nears Lake Winnipeg where the pine belt finally disappears. The lumber trade therefore forms the leading industry in the District. Seven large saw mills are located at Rat Portage, Norman and Keewatin, having a united capacity of 100,000,000 feet, board measure, a year. There are in addition, as has been said, four other saw mills on the Rainy River and Rainy Lake. It is estimated that two million dollars are invested in plant alone in these eleven mills—their combined annual product or output reaching four million dollars; while they employ during the season over two thousand men. The Rainy River Boom Company, which employs about forty men, sort and raft all logs coming down the river from Rainy Lake and its tributaries.

Employment for Settlers.

Besides the results of farming, the settlers can dispose of cordwood for steamboats at \$1.25 per cord and during the winter months obtain wages ranging from \$25 to \$30 and board per month and from \$2 to \$2.50 per day with board for team and teamster for work in connection with lumbering, as pointed out in the preceding paragraph. Laborers are in fair demand, men for farming purposes receiving about the same rate as for lumbering. There are openings for blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, tin-smiths and other mechanics, the demand for which will no doubt rapidly increase as the country is populated.

Municipal Institutions.

The municipal machinery of Ontario is said to be the most complete and the easiest worked of any known system of local self government. As soon as a township has 100 resident freeholders a township council, consisting of reeve, deputy reeve and councillors, may be chosen to administer the affairs of the organized settlement. The township of Alberton has thus far been organized, and each year will no doubt see the number added to until the whole tier of townships along the entire length of the river, will be fully equipped under the provincial municipal constitution. Once a township is thus organized, the council directs the statute labor of the settlers toward the improvement of roads and bridges, thus assisting the Government in proportion to the population, while in addition, they materially assist on other lines in the general development of the township.

Administration of Justice.

The Government also, in accordance with their usual policy, provide or assist in providing the necessary machinery for the proper administration of justice in all the new districts. Rainy River District is attached to the district of Thunder Bay for judicial purposes, and to the Electoral District of Algoma west for election purposes. The general session and district courts are held at Rat Portage, while justices of the peace residing on the Rainy River have been appointed.

A Table of Distances.

From Toronto to Rat Portage	1,154 miles.
From Rat Portage to Rainy Lake	180 "
Length of Rainy River	80 "
Length of Lake of the Woods from north to south	100 "

Rat Portage.

The largest town in the Rainy River District is Rat Portage, which has a population of nearly 2,000. It is the seat of much business enterprise and is destined to grow. Being one of the divisional points of the Canadian Pacific Railway adds materially to its activity, while the fact that it is the principal port on the Lake of the Woods also conduces to its prosperity. It has two well conducted weekly newspapers, the *News* and *Record*, which are devoted to the interests of the whole District. It is also the Judicial seat of the District, with the offices of the Stipendiary Magistrate, Sheriff, and other officers. Extensive fisheries do a good business, shipping the products of the Lake to Chicago, Minneapolis, Buffalo and Denver. It is also the principal shipping port of the District for lumber, etc. At the outlet, or northern arm of the Lake of the Woods, is a magnificent water power enormous in extent and never failing in supply, the utilization of which will be of incalculable benefit to Rat Portage as well as Norman and Keewatin. Arrangements have been made with the Keewatin Milling and Manufacturing Co. by the Ontario Government by which the former will develop this water power at a total cost of \$250,000. The fact that over two million dollars is annually paid in wages by the C. P. R. and the mill owners to men living in Rat Portage or its neighborhood ensures an extensive business town. The telephone is in extensive use as is the electric light. Many industries are also being added from time to time to the town. It is also destined to be the mining centre of the Lake of the Woods mineral region.

Keewatin.

This town on the Lake of the Woods has long been known through the western country as the seat of extensive lumber operations. The Lake of the Woods Milling Co's Flour Mill, having a capacity of 2,000 bbls per day, is the largest flouring mill in Canada with its accessories in the way of a barrel factory with a capacity of 1,000 bbls per day, and elevators, one of which will hold 400,000 bushels and the output of flour scattered far and wide over Canada and across the sea. Thus the name Keewatin has become as familiar a household word as Rat Portage. The town possesses 4 general stores, 2 hardware stores, 2 bakers, 2 groceries, 1 drug store, 2 butchers, 2 saw mills, 2 planing mills, a board factory, a flour mill, a brick yard, 2 hotels, a liquor store, a tailor and a doctor. The Presbyterians, Methodists and Roman Catholics all have churches of their own here. The Foresters, Masons and Royal Templars of Temperance have societies in active operation. The magnificent new school is under able management. Population of the place is about 700. Numerous fine private residences have been built there. As a summer resort, Keewatin has an enviable reputation. Its population numbers nearly 1,500.

Norman.

Norman, lying in the centre of the group of towns on the Lake of the Woods, is situated midway between Keewatin and Rat Portage. The water power here is unlimited, and there are excellent openings for factories. The following are the business enterprises already established: 4 general stores, 1 grocer and confectioner, 3 blacksmith shops, 3 saw mills, 3 planing mills, a machine shop, 1 licensed hotel and 7 boarding houses. There is a large public hall and services are held here regularly by the Presbyterians. The town has a population bordering on 800. As a summer resort Norman is also one of the places of interest to tourists, many finding it a central point from which to purchase their supplies during their outing on the Lake of the Woods.

Fort Francis.

The principal settlement on Rainy River is Fort Francis, the approach to which is really picturesque. Nearing the outlet of Rainy Lake, and entering Rainy River, the right bank is quite park-like, the tall trees standing far apart, and having the rounded tops peculiar to those seen in open grounds. Blue Oak, balsam and Lombardy poplar, with a few aspen, are, however, the principal forest trees. These line the bank, and for two miles after leaving the lake the voyageur glides downwards between walls of emerald green, until the Fort is reached. This ancient post of the Hudson's Bay Co. is beautifully situated on the right bank of the Rainy River, immediately below the falls. It has a school and church, and several general stores, hotels, saw mill, etc., and is destined to be an important centre of population. It is in addition the centre for the new municipality of Alberton. A new survey of the village has recently been made by the Ontario Government. The town is situated on the strip of land lying between Rainy Lake and the head of navigation on Rainy River, a site beautiful and commanding. Its population, according to the census of 1891, was 1,339. The water power of Fort Francis will no doubt ultimately prove of great value.

 DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT.

Hon. Arthur S. Hardy.

The following interview with the Hon. Arthur S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, appeared in the *Toronto Globe* of September 3, 1891 :

"You have, Mr. Hardy, I believe, just returned from Rainy River?" asked a *Globe* reporter of the Commissioner of Crown Lands at his office yesterday.

"Yes, the Provincial Secretary and I went as far as Fort Francis and Rainy Lake," he replied.

"How did the Rainy River country impress you?"

"The territory lying along the banks of Rainy River, between its mouth and source, was a revelation to us. There is a stretch of nearly 80 miles of farm land between Fort Francis and the mouth of Rainy River along the Canadian bank which does not, perhaps, contain two miles of broken or unillable land in the whole distance as seen from the river. It is of unparalleled fertility. I know of no stretch of 80 miles in Ontario that can compare with it in richness or fertility of soil. It is easily cleared, the timber upon it being of second growth, and the stumps are easily removed, indeed come out readily in about three years from the clearing. The available land varies in depth along the bank of the river from ten miles to thirty miles as we were told, but it has not yet been fully explored, and may stretch back, as we were also informed, a good deal farther at certain points. It is capable of sustaining 500,000 people, perhaps more. The crops are uniformly of the best quality, wheat running from 30 to 35 and 40 bushels per acre, and other grains in proportion. Indian corn and tomatoes ripen, and the whole section, it is said, is free from the summer frosts that afflict Manitoba and the North-west. I have never seen early settlers more comfortable. There is a chance too for the farmer at certain periods of the year, if he chooses, to engage with the lumbermen operating on Rainy Lake and Rainy River at from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day, and many settlers earn money in this way. A number of excellent settlers from Muskoka have gone in this year and their work of clearing has already begun. Some of them have erected houses and others are preparing to do so. They are an excellent class of men for this district, as they have been used to clearing woodland and breaking it up. I predict a rush of settlers to this section of the country as soon as its merits are even half understood. The land is free grant land, and any settler can obtain 160 acres by settling and making the necessary improvements."

"Is Rainy River itself attractive or navigable throughout?" asked the reporter.

"It is one of the great rivers of the country. I had a very imperfect conception of it. It appears from casual observation to be from a quarter to in some places a third of a mile wide, is almost uniform in width from source to mouth, and tugs and steamers ply over its whole course. There are but two places where navigation is difficult, viz., two comparatively small rapids about half way up. The expenditure of a few thousand dollars would overcome all difficulty in so far as these are concerned, and make as fine a navigable river as is to be found on the continent. The volume of water is great, the current is moderate and the banks of the river beautiful throughout. One drawback is that the American border is as yet an unbroken wilderness. The accounts vary as to the farming land on the American side, but it appeared from the steamer very similar to that on the Canadian side, except that the soil is not so rich, indeed is much lighter in some places. What the Canadian section wants is roads, more ready access to the front and to existing railways, and for some of their products a more ready market, but above all what is wanted is more settlers. For all their coarse products—hay, fodder, potatoes, etc.—a ready market is found among the lumbermen at excellent prices. The settlers are looking for the rapid prosecution of the Port Arthur Railway, which it is thought must ultimately reach them and traverse the Rainy River valley."

"What about Fort Francis? Is it a settlement of any importance?"

"I was surprised to find quite a village at this point—stores, churches, schools, hotels, etc.—and I was told that at certain portions of the year business is very brisk. The village is built on the strip of land lying between Rainy Lake and the head of naviga-

tion on Rainy River, and as a site is most commanding and beautiful. The landmarks connected with the old survey of the town plot at Fort Francis have been largely obliterated, and at the request of the Council and citizens I have directed a new survey."

"Did you extend your visit to Rainy Lake?"

"Yes, we went out some miles upon the lake. It is a very fine body of water, comparing favorably with one of the most beautiful lakes on the continent—the lake of the Woods. It is in many respects very similar, dotted with beautiful islands, but navigable in every direction. Some of the finest tracts of timber owned by the Government in the west are to be found upon the shores of and tributary to the Lake of the Woods."

"What about the lock partially built by Mr. Mackenzie at Fort Francis?"

"A comparatively small expenditure upon this lock would make navigation continuous from Rat Portage, across the Lake of the Woods, up Rainy River and through into Rainy Lake—a distance of nearly 300 miles. The lock is nearly built and the water rushes through it, but the appliances for making it useful have not been supplied. Precisely how much it would cost I am not prepared to say, but its completion would be of great assistance to lumbermen and the lumber interests, but ultimately it is thought by the people of Fort Francis it must be completed."

"What of the rest of the country in the Rainy River district? Is there any farming land to be found?"

"It is not a farming country. Different accounts, however, are given upon this point. Generally it may be said the district is a mining and timber district, with parcels of land here and there capable of being converted to agricultural uses."

"What kind of country does the Port Arthur & Western Railway pass through?"

"I was delighted to find that the railway, quite contrary to my expectations, passes through some very rich farming land. The valley of the Kaministiquia, and further west and south the Whitefish Valley, show some as fine soil as is to be found in many of the finest counties of the Province. We saw here and there crops growing indicating great fertility and productive capacity. The great want is agricultural settlers. The railway has revealed and practically opened to the public this large district. The road seems to have been built with skill and judgment, and ran as smoothly as many roads long completed. Messrs. Conmee and Middleton have been exceedingly energetic and are looked upon as benefactors of the district by the people at large. As the road proceeds it reaches and runs through some of the richest iron producing districts in the Dominion and it is thought it will ultimately prove a great mineral road. Our visit to the silver mines was full of interest, as was that to Kakabeka Falls. These latter will yet become the great resort of western tourists. They are as striking in some of their features as Niagara, and it is a wonder that more has not been said and written respecting them."

 Hon. John Dryden.

"My opinion is," Mr. Dryden said, "that giving away land under free grants is not the best way to settle a new country. Why? Because where you get a thing for nothing you don't often appreciate it as you would if you had to pay for it. The settlers do not take the land for the land's sake. As experience in the Rainy River District shows, they go in as squatters, and neither know how to turn the land to use nor think much of doing so.

"In short, my judgment is that the land up there is too good to give away. Moreover, if our people knew how good it is they would be willing to take it and give something for it.

"My opinion was not formed by a sail up and down the river, but after an examination of several localities where there has been some farming done, and after trips inland whenever opportunities for them occurred. And, as I told the people at Port Arthur and Fort Francis, there are some things they can grow up there that we cannot grow in Ontario and others in which they can beat us. The clover does not seem to heave up in winter as ours does, and is as good the third year, I was told, as it is the first. The advantage of this will be understood by practical farmers, because we think if we can raise a good crop of clover we can grow anything. Corn grows up there much better than in Ontario County. I saw some eight feet high which had been sown on the 7th June. They have fine roots, and I saw a field of turnips as good as I saw anywhere in my travels. In addition to that, several settlers told me that they can grow two crops of timothy in one season. White clover grows wild on the roadside like our June grass, and has bits of red clover in it, an unheard of thing down here. They can also grow good barley and spring wheat, and vegetables of all kinds."

"These things being established, I come to the conclusion that there is the opportunity there for the production of live stock as profitably as anywhere in the Dominion. It means that it is a good dairying country, and if I were a farmer in that district I would devote myself to that branch of farming. It is the most compact form that farm produce can be put into, and the most convenient for transportation, and that is their most serious difficulty."

"How large is the area of agricultural lands?"

"I think it would average twenty miles wide by eighty miles along the river. When I made the statement at a public meeting at Fort Francis that they had a million acres of this first-class soil, I was told that four million would be nearer the mark.

"This is wooded land, it must be remembered, and although the old-world settlers prefer prairie I think the wooded land has its advantages. For example, a man going on a prairie ought to have enough capital to build him a house and to buy fencing and fuel, whereas a man going to the Rainy River may go without other capital than his energy, muscle, and sufficient provisions to keep him for a few months. There is this advantage, too, about the Rainy River, that the timber is not large and can be burned off if desirable. There is a good deal of cedar and tamarac and second growth poplar. This is much easier cleared than the hardwood that Ontario settlers had to cut. My father," Mr. Dryden added, "would have thought it sport to clear off that soft wood. The settlers up there say the stumps come out sooner, and that in three years they can be all removed."

"The climate of the district is similar to ours, and much less severe than Manitoba's. It has no frosts until some time in September, and never any to hurt the grain. Small fruit grow in a wild state as large as our cultivated gardens and with richer flavor. Red raspberries, black currants, wild plums, and cranberries grow wild in great profusion.

"I would like to provide homes there for our young men and women, instead of having them go further west. You know they are somewhat like bees, and must swarm at intervals, and I would like to provide them with homes within our own Provincial boundaries. I do not think they can find a better country, though they travel over all the new lands of the west.

"The people around Port Arthur have been crazy about minerals, but things are duller now in mining, and they are wondering if they can do anything with agriculture. They used to think they could not grow fruits and vegetables, but I saw a garden that is a wonderful proof of the fertility of the soil around Port Arthur."

Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P for West Algoma.

Rainy River is a very large, navigable stream, averaging about 500 feet in width. It is the outlet of Rainy Lake, and is about ninety miles in length. It is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful rivers in America. The banks are not more than twenty feet above the water line. The country bordering on the river is an unbroken plain of rich fertile land, well timbered, and presenting a most refreshing view to the traveller who is fortunate enough to see it in full leaf.

The belt of good land is not confined to the valley of the river, but extends north-easterly along the shore of the Lake of the Woods, and for a considerable distance along the northern shore of Rainy Lake. The land is not only easily cleared as compared with eastern Ontario bush lands (the stumps being removable much earlier and easier), but is entirely free from loose stone, such as eastern farmers have to contend with.

I estimate the agricultural belt as equal to an area of 140 miles in length by 40 miles in width, or 4,084,000 acres. This by no means includes all the good land in that district; there are other valleys of excellent land, but none so large as the Rainy River valley. The valleys of the Kawawagamog and Seine rivers, emptying into Rainy Lake, both contain large areas of good agricultural lands. The same is true of Grassy and other rivers emptying into the Lake of the Woods. The means of access to this agricultural belt is by way of Rat Portage, Lake of the Woods and Rainy River. The principal drawback to the route is that but a small class of boats can be used, owing to the rapids in the river. If the rapids were improved to admit a larger class of vessels it would be a great boon to the settlers.

But the greatest drawback now felt is the want of railway communication, there being no outlet except by teams from December until May, but this difficulty will be overcome as soon as the Ontario and Rainy River Railway is completed. This railway runs south-westerly from Port Arthur to a point within twenty miles of the boundary between Ontario and Minnesota, and thence westerly parbelting the said boundary at a distance from twenty to thirty miles, crossing the valleys of the Kawawagamog and Seine rivers to Rainy Lake, where it crosses the narrows of the north arm of that lake, and passes on to Fort Francis, and down the valley of the Rainy River. Seventy miles of this line is now completed, and it is hoped the line will within a few years be built to the north of the Rainy River, where it is expected to make connection with an American railway. The construction of this railway through this section of country will open for settlement one of the greatest, if not the greatest, agricultural belts in the Province, as well as afford facilities for the supply of logs upon the Rainy River District. This makes it all the better for the settlers, as they can not only procure work in the winter if they wish to work out, but it also affords them a good ready market for all their surplus crop.

There is a flour mill at Keewatin having a capacity of 1,200 barrels per day. The settlers are thus enabled to send their wheat by the boat to the mill and get their flour by return boat. Rainy River wheat is considered A1, and in fact all the crops I saw up there were as fine crops as I have ever seen in the older parts of the Province of Ontario. I met men there from Manitoba and Dakota, and also from St. Mary's, Owen Sound and Pembroke, all of whom had taken up land in the district. And I would say to any man who wants a good bush farm (and I know something about a bush farm, for I was brought up on one), go to Rainy River and you will find just what you want.

Report of Andrew C. Lawson, M.A., Ph. D.

The following is an extract from the report of Mr. Andrew C. Lawson, M.A., Ph. D. of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, on "The Geology of the Rainy Lake Region," published in 1888:

"The wooded plain which extends from the south-west corner of Rainy Lake to the Lake of the Woods is on a slight but distinctly lower level than that of the 'rocky lake country.' Its slope is apparently the continuation of that of the rocky plateau just

described. The highest part of the plain, so far as I was able to observe, is where the scarped face of the bedded clays which underlie it overlook Rainy Lake near Couchiching, with an elevation of 10 or 12 feet above the surface of the lake. Down the Rainy River to the Lake of the Woods the plain has practically the same slope as the river * * * occasionally, as to the north-west of the Indian Reserve at the Longue Sault or Rainy River, the country is rolling or undulating. * * * Drainage is effected by the numerous creeks and rivers which flow into the Rainy River. These all cut channels down through the clayey strata, and afford excellent sections of a thickness varying from 10 to 30 feet.

Mr. William Margach of Rat Portage, Ont.

Having been a resident of the County of Victoria for twenty years, and being thus acquainted with the quality of the land in that locality, I am in a position to compare it with the land on the Rainy River. Excepting the Townships of Mariposa, Ops and Emily, there are no other townships to be compared with the land on the river. The soil is good and free from stone, while the timber is light. I have seen more timber in a birch tree in the Township of Snowden than you will find in an acre on the Rainy River. As to getting employment in the camps in the winter, the wages are good for men and horses. The good land is not confined to Rainy River, however. From the outlet of the river north to Grassy River, a distance of 25 miles, is very fine land, and the land on Big and Little Grassy Rivers is equal to that on Rainy River, and is within 60 miles of Rat Portage.

Rainy River Free Grant Townships.

The following townships are now open for location under the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act:—

Township of—	Township	Range
Curran	3	22
Atwood	4	22
Blue	3	23
Worthington	4	23
Nelles	3	24
Dilke	4	24
Pattullo	3	25
Morley	4	25
S. of Morley	5	25
Tait	3	26
Shenston	4	26
Roseberry	5	26
Barwick	5	27
Lash	5	28
Aylsworth	6	28
Devlin	5	29
Woodyatt	6	29
Crozier	5	30
Roddick	6	30
McIrvine	5	31

Agents for the Sale and Location of Crown Lands.

T. J. F. MARSH, Rainy River P.O., agent for the Townships of Roseberry, Shenston, Tait, Pattullo, Morley, Dilke, Nelles, Blue, Worthington, Curran and Atwood.

WM. WILSON, Fort Francis P.O., agent for the Townships of Barwick, Lash, Aylsworth, Devlin, Woodyatt, Crozier, Roddick and McIrvine.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, Rat Portage, who will furnish intending settlers with the number of lots open for location, as well as valuable general information regarding the district.

How to Obtain Free Grants and Homesteads in the Rainy River District.

Public lands which have been surveyed, and are considered suitable for settlement and cultivation, and not valuable chiefly for minerals or pine timber, may be appropriated as Free Grants.

To obtain a Free Grant, the applicant must make application to the local Crown Land agent, in whose agency the land desired is situated, and deposit with him the necessary affidavit (see Forms Nos. 1, 2 and 3, in Appendix). Although no fees are charged by the Department, or allowed to the land agents for locating, yet, if required to prepare the necessary affidavits, the agent may make a reasonable charge for so doing.

One hundred and sixty acres is the limit of the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act. No individual, therefore, can obtain more than that quantity as a Free Grant, and if the land selected exceeds 160 acres, the applicant must pay for the overplus at the price fixed by the regulations, viz., \$1 per acre. *The male head of a family, or the sole female head of a family, having a child or children under eighteen years of age residing with him or her, may be located for 160 acres as a Free Grant; and may also purchase an additional 80 acres at the rate of one dollar per acre.*

Upon receipt of the necessary affidavits, the agent will, if the land selected be open for location, and there be no adverse claim thereto, enter the locatee for it on the records of his office, and at the end of the current month he will return the location to the Department of Crown Lands.

In case a party has settled on Government land before the township has been surveyed, or appropriated under the Free Grants Act, he should, immediately after it is opened for location, apply to the local agent and get located, as he will have no recognized title, and his occupation of the land will not count until this action has been taken.

Upon completion of his location, the locatee may enter upon and occupy his land, and may commence his improvements; and the Regulations require him to do so within one month.

The locatee will not be entitled to his patent until the expiration of three years from the date of location, and he must then make proof that the settlement duties have been fully completed. The settlement duties required on each location are as follows, viz. :—

(1) *To have at least fifteen acres cleared and had under cultivation, of which two acres at least are to be cleared and cultivated annually during the three years;*

(2) *To have built a habitable house, at least 16 by 20 feet in size;*

(3) *And to have actually and continuously resided upon and cultivated the land for three years after location.*

A locatee is not bound to remain on the land all the time during the three years; but may be absent on business or at work for, in all, not more than six months in any one year. He must, however, make it his home, and clear and cultivate the quantity of land required (two acres at least) each year.

Where a locatee holds two lots, he may make the requisite improvements on either one or both, as he finds it most convenient.

A locatee who purchases an additional 80 acres under the Regulations must, within three years from the date of sale, clear fifteen acres thereon, and cultivate the same, before he will be entitled to the patent; but he is not required to build a house or reside on the purchased lot, where he holds it in connection with a Free Grant.

The proof of the performance of the settlement duties must be: the affidavit of the locatee himself, supported by the testimony of at least two disinterested parties, which

affidavits are to be filed with the local agent—who, if satisfied as to the correctness of the statements contained therein, recommends the issue of the patent, and transmits the application to the Department.

In case a locatee has, after the issue of his patent, absolutely and in good faith parted with the land patented to him as a Free Grant, he may take up another location by applying to the local agent, and making affidavit setting out the facts.

In case the locatee fails to perform the settlement duties required by law, his location is liable to forfeiture, and may be cancelled by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Applications for cancellation must be made through the local agent, and be supported by the affidavits of the applicant and at least two credible witnesses, who will show what the present position of the lot is; whether the locatee ever occupied or improved, and, if so, to what extent and the value of the improvements; when he ceased to occupy; and his address, if known. Upon receipt of this evidence the agent will, if he can ascertain the address of the locatee, notify him of the application, and call upon him to disprove the allegations, or show cause why his location should not be cancelled within thirty days. At the expiration of that time the agent will transmit the evidence, with anything he may have received from the locatee in reply, and his own report to the Department.

The assignment or mortgage of a homestead from a locatee to another party before the issue of his patent is invalid, and cannot be recognized by the Department. This does not, however, apply to the devise of a Free Grant lot by will, nor to transfers of lands by a locatee for church, cemetery or school purposes, or the right of way of railroads.

All pine trees and minerals on land located or sold under the Free Grants Act are reserved from the location or sale, and are the property of the Crown, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands may at any time issue a license to cut the pine on such land. The locatee may, however, cut and use such pine trees as he requires for building and fencing on his land, and may also cut and dispose of any pine trees he meets within the actual process of clearing his land for cultivation; but any trees so disposed of are subject to the payment of the same dues as are payable by license holders.

Holders of timber licenses have the right to haul their timber over the uncleared portion of any land located or sold, and to make such roads as may be necessary for the purpose, and to use all slides, portages and roads, and to have free access to all streams and lakes.

The Crown reserves the right to construct on any land located or sold, any Colonization road, or deviation from the Government allowance for road; and to take from such land, without compensation, any timber, gravel or material required for the construction or improvement of any such road.

Any conveyance, mortgage or alienation (except a will) of the land located, by a locatee after the issue of a patent and within twenty years from location, will be invalid unless it be by deed in which his wife is one of the grantors, and unless it be duly executed by her.

The land, while owned by the locatee, his widow or heirs, shall be exempt from liability for debt during twenty years from the date of location. This exemption does not, however, extend to a sale for taxes legally imposed.

When a Free Grant locatee dies before the completion of his title, his representatives may continue the settlement duties and obtain a patent at the proper time upon filing the requisite proof. If he died before the 1st July, 1886, intestate, evidence is required of the date of death and that he died intestate, giving the name of his widow, and the number and names of all his children, and if he left no wife or children, the name of his heir must be given; if he made a will, it must be sent in with proper proof of due execution according to law. If he died after the 1st July, 1886, probate or letters of administration to the real and personal estate, as the case may be, must be sent.

Where a locatee dies, whether before or after issue of patent, leaving a widow, she is entitled to the land during her widowhood, in lieu of dower, unless she prefers to take her dower instead.

In making application for land, and in filing proof in support of applications for cancellation of a location, or for issue of patent, the applicant will save time and unnecessary trouble by filing his papers with, or mailing them to, the Crown Land Agent in whose agency the land is situated, as on account of the agent's local knowledge of the lands he has to deal with, the Department requires that his certificate be attached to all such applications.

Lands located or sold under the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act, or the regulations made thereunder, are liable to taxation from the date of such location or sale, and where taxes assessed on such lands are in arrears for three years, the interest of the locatee or purchaser may be sold in the manner prescribed by law. When the tax-purchaser receives his deed, unless legal proceedings be taken to question it by some person interested within two years from the date of sale, he acquires the right and interest of the locatee or purchaser, and may obtain a patent on completion of the original conditions of location or sale.

In order to have his claim recognized, a tax-purchaser should file his deed in the Department, and two years after the date of the sale for taxes, should file evidence showing that no action has been taken to question his title, that there is no adverse claim on the ground of occupation or improvements, and that all arrears of taxes have been paid since he purchased. (See Revised Statutes 1887), Cap. 193, sections 159, 160 and 171, and Cap. 24, section 18.) And in order to obtain a patent for the land, as a free grant, the tax-purchaser must also show that he has performed the settlement duties required by the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act, and that he has not already received the benefit of the said Act, or if he has received a grant of all the land which it allows him, that he has *bona fide* and absolutely parted with the same.

How to Purchase Public Lands.

In case a party should desire to purchase public land which has been surveyed, but is not within the jurisdiction of any Crown Land agent, he should make his application direct to the Department, and support it by the affidavits of at least two credible and disinterested persons. These affidavits should set out all facts in connection with the land which he seeks to purchase, and especially whether it has ever been occupied, whether occupied at the time the application is made, and, if so, by whom, and when such occupation commenced; whether any improvements have been made on said land, and, if so, the nature and extent of the same, and by whom and when they were made; and also, whether there is any claim made thereto adverse to that of the applicant, and based on the ground of occupation or improvements. If the applicant has acquired the interest or claim of some previous occupant, he should show the fact and file an assignment.

The forms of affidavits used in applications for free grant and other Crown Lands may be had of the Crown Land agents or from the Crown Lands Department, Toronto.

THE RAINY RIVER MINERAL LANDS.

Mineral Lands.

Crown Lands in the District of Rainy River may be purchased or leased for mining purposes under the provisions of the Mines Act, 1892. For a purchase, the price varies from two and a half to three and a half dollars per acre, according to distance from a railway, and whether the land is in surveyed or unsurveyed territory. Under the leasing system, the rental is at the rate of one dollar per acre for the first year, and twenty-five cents per acre for subsequent years. A lease may be at any time converted into a purchase, in which case the first year's rental is applied as part payment for the land. Patent or lease is issued upon payment, and contains a reservation of all pine trees standing or being upon the land. The pine continues to be the property of the Crown, who may at any time issue a license to cut it, and the party holding the license is empowered to enter at all times upon the land, cut and remove it, and make all necessary roads for that purpose.

Applications to purchase or lease land under The Mines Act should be made direct to the Crown Lands Department at Toronto, and should be accompanied by the purchase money or first year's rental, together with affidavits of at least two credible and disinterested parties, showing that the land is unoccupied and unimproved (except by or on behalf of the applicant) and that there is no claim adverse to his on the ground of occupation, improvements or otherwise.

After seven years from the date of patent or lease the output of ore is subject to a royalty not exceeding 2 per cent. for iron, or 3 per cent. for silver, nickel or copper.

Mining in the Thunder Bay and Rainy River Districts.

The mining interests of a country are no less important and valuable than the timber interests, and in this respect the Province of Ontario is exceptionally rich. The extent and variety of our mineral resources are fully set forth in the "Report of the Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Ontario" and in the reports of the Bureau of Mines.

North of Lake Superior locations of gold, silver, copper, iron, galena, plumbago and zinc ores have been taken up, besides which there are inexhaustible supplies of granite, marble, serpentine and sandstone. West of Port Arthur is a silver district, of great richness. Beyond this region to the north-west, are found veins of gold-bearing quartz and extensive ranges of magnetic iron ore, while to the south-west is believed to be a continuation of the Vermilion iron range of northern Minnesota.

Considerable activity has recently been shown in the iron bearing area of the Atik-Okan River as well as in the silver-bearing Animikie series to the south. The completion of the Port Arthur and Western Railway through the silver districts will afford the necessary outlet for the product of these mines.

Silver ore has also been discovered in the Township of Paipoonge, ten miles west of Port Arthur, while numerous silver and native copper lodes and deposits have been found in the township of Crooks, twenty miles from Fort William.

The islands in the Lake of the Woods, especially Sultana Island, have also revealed gold-bearing veins of good promise. Actual mining operations have been carried on for about a year past at the Sultana Island mine, with good results. A number of promising gold prospects have been discovered on the mainland close to the lake and along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on some of these development work has proven the existence of paying ore in considerable quantity. Capital has recently come in for the further development of the gold and other mineral resources of this district.

The mineral wealth of the Rainy River district, although less easily estimated, bids fair to be even greater than that of the timber wealth. The results thus far of prospecting establish the existence of gold, silver, copper, nickel and iron, and it is more than probable that the valuable veins discovered in Algoma will be found to extend through the Rainy River district. That the geological formation is indicative of valuable mineral deposits is verified by Professor Bell's geological surveys. A band of rocks running south-west from Lake Shebandowan (in neighborhood of which gold has been found in considerable quantities) to the international boundary, and thence to Lake Vermilion in Minnesota, is also said to be rich in auriferous deposits. The Public Works Report of the Dominion (1875), says that, "The Indians, both of Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods have among them specimens of native gold and silver ore, which they affirm is to be found in places known to them in abundance, and the rock formation is such as to corroborate their statement. Iron ore is plentiful in many sections, and charcoal for smelting easily obtainable. Granite, which report says is equal in texture and fitness to the best imported specimens, is to be found at the Lake of the Woods, and the steatite, of which the Indians make pipes, and a very valuable article for the construction of furnaces, is quite abundant at Rainy Lake and Sebaskin."

Gold has been discovered at Rainy Lake, on both sides of the international boundary line, so recently as the summer of 1893, and active search for the precious metal in that locality is likely to be undertaken when the snow leaves the ground bare this spring. Gold locations have also been taken up on Manitou lake, to the north of Rainy lake, and it is considered not improbable that the gold-bearing rocks may be found to occupy a portion of the country lying between the two lakes.

