

the Governor in Council may, subject to then existing rights, withdraw from the operation of the above system, land to the width of three full townships on each side of the line finally sanctioned for the Inter-Oceanic Railway, and may also terminate after the same day the free homestead system. Settlers, therefore, who want to be absolutely sure of a free homestead should go at once.

LAKE NIPIGON

From the reports of the Geological Survey we get some further particulars respecting this Lake and the country around it, in addition to that furnished by Mr. Bell in his evidence before the Immigration Committee of the House of Commons.

The general outline of the Lake is elliptical; the longest diameter, a little West of North, being about 70 miles, and the breadth about 50 miles. The shore on the Southern side is deeply indented by large bays; and on the Northern, Ombabika Bay is nearly 20 miles long with an entrance only a mile wide. These indentations increase very much the coast line, which measures 580 miles, and this circumstance will be of advantage in colonizing the land, so much of it being accessible from the water.

The Lake is very thickly studded with islands. Between 500 and 600 were examined varying in size from 8 miles in diameter, down to a few chains in length. Probably there are 1,000 or more altogether in the Lake. The only outlet is the Nipigon River, which issues from the south-east side and empties into Lake Superior. It is about 30 miles long and is the largest river flowing into Lake Superior. Its size and character, and the area it drains, entitle it to be considered as the continuation of the St. Lawrence, beyond Lake Superior. Four lakes occur in its course, Lake Helen, 8 miles long and 1 wide; Lake Jessie, 3 long; Lake Maria, 2½; and Lake Emma. The navigation between these lakes is constantly interrupted by falls and rapids. Lake Nipigon is 313 feet higher than Lake Superior. The Indians say it has fallen 3 feet in the last 55 years. The shores on the south and west are bolder and the water deeper than on the north and east. The depth of water is always great. Mr. Bell says he has seen the Indians fishing in upwards of a hundred feet of water not a stone's throw from the shore. The streams flowing into the Lake are numerous. The country around it is undulating, sometimes hilly, but level tracts of considerable extent occur in some places. The largest tract of good land appears to be on the south-western side of the Lake. For fifty miles from the Nonwatan River northward, the country is mostly level and the soil fertile. The Indians represent this tract as continuing nearly to the Winnipeg River, becoming more level as it recedes westward. Around South and McIntyre, the two largest bays to the south, there is a considerable area of good land. Along the Kabitoquia on the west, on both sides of the river, the country is level and the soil sandy, supporting a growth of grass and bushes, the timber having been burnt off by repeated fires. The land is free from stones, and very little would make it ready for the plough. To the north-westward the country is low and a level tract extends north to an unknown distance. To the north east along Ombabika Bay as far as the eye can reach, the country is level and the soil good. The climate appears to be as well suited for agriculture as the greater part of the Province of Quebec. The timber is principally white spruce, white birch, aspen,

poplar, balsam, fir, tamarac, and white cedar, with occasional trees of black ash, grey elm, and white pine.

The best route for a railway, Professor Bell thinks, would be to cross the River Nipigon at the outlet of Lake Helen, where the river is narrow and the banks 30 or 40 feet high. Thence westward through the level pass leading to Black Sturgeon River, crossing this below Eshquanonwatan Lake, and continuing north-westward. The general grade in the hundred miles indicated would be very slight, Lake Nipigon being only a little more than 300 feet above Lake Superior.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The resolutions to admit British Columbia into the Dominion were adopted on the 31st March, 1871. We subjoin an abstract of them :

1. Canada shall be liable for debts and liabilities of B. Columbia existing at time of Union.
2. B. C. to receive from Dom. Govt. half yearly, in advance, interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on difference between amt. of its indebtedness at date of Union, and the indebtedness per head of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (27.77) the population of B. C. estimated at 60,000.
3. Canada to pay B. C. for support of Govt. and Legislature, an annual subsidy of \$35,000, and annual grant of 80 cents a head of said population of 60,000, both half yearly in advance; such grant to be augmented in proportion to population, as shown by each decennial census, until the population is 400,000, when the grant is not to be further increased; first Census to be taken in 1881.
4. Dominion to provide Mail Service fortnightly by steam between Victoria and San Francisco, and twice a week between Victoria and Olympia. Vessels to be fitted for conveyance of freight and passengers.
5. Dominion to defray charges for
 - Salary of Lieutenant Governor,
 - Salaries and allowances of Judges of Superior and County or District Courts,
 - Charges of Department of Customs,
 - Postal and Telegraphic services,
 - Protection and encouragement of Fisheries,
 - Provision for Militia,
 - Lighthouses, Buoys and Beacons, Shipwrecked crews, Quarantine, and Marine Hospitals, Marine Hospital at Victoria,
 - Geological Survey,
 - Penitentiary, and any further charges which by the B. N. A. Act belong to Genl. Govt. or are allowed to other Provinces.
6. Pensions approved by Her Majesty's Government for those of Her M.'s servants in Colony whose position and emoluments are affected by charges consequent on admission of B. C. into Dominion,
7. Existing customs, tariff, and excise duties, to be in force in B. C. until the railways of Canada are connected with the Pacific Coast Railway, unless the B. C. Legislature adopt sooner the tariff and excise of Canada. Until these are assimilated, any goods, wares or merchandise, may be imported into B. C. from Provinces of Dominion or from the Provinces into B. C. on proof of payment of customs or excise duties leviable in Province of exportation, and payment of such further amount (if any) as are leviable in Province of importation.