

Lakes Temiscaming and Abbitibee. The area was so large that only a commencement of the work could be made. Starting from Temiscaming, three different excursions were made, one north to Lake Abbitibee, another up the Blanche River to Round Lake, and the third up the Ottawa to Lake Mijicowaja. On the first expedition the party proceeded from Lake Temiscaming up the Ottawa to Lac des Quinze, a distance of about 15 miles in which are 15 portages. The lake is an expansion of the Ottawa, about a mile wide. From the outlet of this to the H. B. Co.'s Post on Lake Abbitibee, is about 76 miles. With the exception of a short portage, there is uninterrupted canoe navigation to within half a mile of the height of land, there being scarcely even a perceptible current all the way. Just on the north side of the height of land, two remarkable hills rise to a considerable height above the surrounding country. All the way from Lac des Quinze, the country is low with no hills more than 150 feet high, but these two are more than 700 feet. They face each other and are less than half a mile apart. Twelve or fifteen miles W. by S. is another similar one said by the Indians to be the highest land in that part of the country. From the summit of one of these hills a good view of the surrounding country was obtained. On the north a series of low hills extends E. & W. for many miles, all cone shaped and apparently isolated. Passing through two small lakes, they entered Abbitibee River and followed it about 9 miles to Lake Abbitibee. This lake is 847 feet above the sea. It consists of an upper and lower lake, the former lying due east and west. It is 13 miles long and from 2 to 8 wide generally, though in one place its breadth is increased by bays to 17 ft. The lower lake is rudely circular in form. Breadth from 15 to 20 miles. Greatest width 47. The shore line is very irregular, and the number of islands very great.

The second expedition up the River Blanche left Temiscaming on the 4th Sept. The distance by the river to the Round Lake is about 60 miles. For the first 25 miles the stream flows with a strong current between banks of clay and sand and without rapids. Above this for several miles, chloritic and dioritic slates, and above these for 10 miles the only rock is granitoid gneiss, similar to that of Lake Abbitibee, and N. W. of this, slates are again met with.

On the 25th of Sept. Mr. McQuat set out on his 3rd expedition to Lake Mijicowaja, another lake like expansion of the Ottawa above Lac des Quinze. Along the upper part of Lac des Quinze are hills similar to those near the height of land. Copper was observed in several localities and also magnetic iron. Steatite was observed on Lakes Opasatika and on the Quinze, and roofing slates on the 5th Portage of the Quinze. White and red pine were found over the whole region even as far north as Lake Abbitibee, but on this lake they are mostly small and scraggy. On the hills along the height of land they are abundant and of excellent quality. White spruce, yellow birch and cedar are also found of good size, in tolerable abundance. Along the shores of Lakes Opasatika and Obikoba, are groves of white pine. The best timber of all was on the upper part of Lac des Quinze and lower part of Lake Mijicowaja and in the vicinity of the 4th and 5th portages. Sugar maple, swamp

maple and white oak are plentiful round the head of Lake Temiscaming but not further north. Hemlock is abundant on the lower half of this lake. North of the lake, beyond the maple region, come aspen, canoe birch, spruce, Banksian pine, and balsam. Elm and ash are found on low lands as far north as Abbitibee. The whole region north of the mouth of the Montreal River, is a level clay plain, with numerous rocky hills and ridges protruding through it. The height of the clay appears to be pretty uniform throughout, its average height above the sea level being 900 feet. The largest areas of arable land are on the Blanche and around Lake Abbitibee. A French Canadian farmer from Sorel who has for 30 years had charge of the farm at the H. B. Co.'s Post at Abbitibee, says that all the ordinary cereals can be cultivated as successfully as on the St. Lawrence. Indian corn is said to ripen well near the head of Lake Temiscaming.

Mr. Henry G. Vennor was, during 1872, engaged in prosecuting the survey under progress in the counties of Frontenac, Leeds and Lanark, noting especially the development of minerals in those counties. Messrs. Bailey, Matthew and Ellis were engaged in explorations for coal in Queen's, Sunbury and York counties, New Brunswick. The coal seams discovered so far are thin, and the discovery of more extensive ones are probable. Mr. Bailey gives the area of the coal seam as surveyed as 112 sq. miles estimated to yield about 155,000,000 tons. But the true area is much larger, perhaps two or three times greater, and the possible yield may be 20 times as great. In some places the coal was found to have a considerable admixture of shale, in others it was free from impurities and of excellent quality. Iron ores of several kinds, Limestones, Fire clays, Marbles, Porphyries, Jaspers, &c., are found in various parts of this coal region.

Mr. Charles Robb was engaged during the latter part of the season of 1872 in continuing the survey of the Sydney coal field of Cape Breton. The area of this field is about 200 sq. miles, forming the extremity of an extensive trough or basin for the most part lying under the waters of the Ocean. There are excellent harbours all along the coast giving the most favorable conditions for shipment. Sydney Harbour, in the centre, is one of the finest harbours on the Atlantic Coast of N. America. The country is of a gently rolling character, the highest hill hardly exceeding 150 feet. The aggregate thickness of the coal outcropping on the shores, in the bays and cliffs, is from 40 to 50 feet, the seams varying from 3 to 9 feet in thickness. The seams generally dip at a very low angle and all dip seaward rendering available much of the coal in the submarine as well as land areas. The coal is bituminous, with little diversity in the quality of the seams, much of it comparing favorably with the best English coal. As compared with the Pictou coal, it contains a greater amount of combustible matter, less ash, but more sulphur. There are 13 mines in operation, from which have been taken 5,721,208 tons of coal, at an expenditure of \$2,766,400; 1,881 men and boys are employed. Two-thirds of the mining population are Scotch Highlanders or their descendants. Every encouragement and facility for their improvement is afforded by the proprietors in the way of schools, churches, comfortable dwellings, medical