RECONNAISSANCE

TACLA LAKE & VICINITY

-- 1913 --

J. Turnbull.

Reconnaissance File 305.

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GENERAL INFORMATION.

Soil.

Except for the Driftwood Flats already mentioned the Valley of the Middle River and the land lying to the east and south east of Tacla Lake, there is practically no agricultural land in the whole area covered by the sketch. The middle River and Tremblay Lake land is deep red loam of first class agricultural value and is all under purchase.

Population.

Tremblay Lake and Middle River have four families of Indians situated on Middle River. Tacla Lake three families of Indians and two white men. McPherson, Rancher and store-keeper at the New Landing (McLaings) and Mr. Bowling a prospector who during the summer months is located ten miles south of the landing. A road gang of four to eight men has been employed during the past season building the wagon road from McLaings to Silver Creek.

Fire Protection.

The present system of fire protection is inadequate and I would recommend that two men be placed in the area sketched; one to have the upper Tacla and Driftwood River district, the other, lower Tacla, Middle River and Tremblay Lake. These men would require boats or canoes of a sea-
worthy build which would enable them to get around in the periodical storms which sweep up and down the Lake.

Twenty to twenty two foot Peterborough canoes, broad beamed and costing in the neighbourhood of $110, each would fill the bill. The cabin for the upper Tacla men could be situated at the north-east end of the Lake on the quarter section adjoining the Olsen preemption, which up to the present time has not been taken up. The lower guard could be placed at the New Landing or McLaings. The latter preferably, as there is a store immediately handy and the land is open.
REPORT ON CROWN TIMBERLAND

Hazelton Forest District. October 8th, 1913.
Fort Fraser Land District.

Area No. 1.

1. Description of Area.

Starting from the North east corner of pre-emption Number 1755 (Olson's) thence due east to summit of divide between Nitka Creek and Driftwood River watershed, thence following the summit of said divide in a north westerly direction for twenty five miles, thence due west to Driftwood River and thence south easterly, following meanderings of Driftwood River to mouth of same and point of commencement.

Scale.

Four miles to the inch.

2. Estimate of Timber.

{ Total 240,000,000 M. Bd feet
  { Area 40,000 acres
  { Average 6000 M. Bd feet per acre.

3. Species.

Spruce 60%, Jack-Pine 30%, Balsam and Poplar 10%. 
4. **Topography**

Country flat and rolling after leaving the mountain slope for three miles, thereafter descending by benches to the river flats which run back in various extents from the river. The soil in the timber areas ranges from the gravel of the average Taola soil to a fair depth of loam and in the depressions. The creeks intersecting the area are of the gulch and Box Canyon description and mostly drain into the Line Creek mentioned in the sketch.

5. **Remarks.**

The total area of the block described is approximately 160,000 acres. Of this as has been stated approximately 40,000 acres is covered with merchantable timber. Of the remainder probably 20, to 30,000 acres is barren land above timber line and 65, to 75,000 acres is covered with a good second growth, which while it could not come under the classification of timber land in the meantime gives promise of being a fine crop when matured, and is on land which is of too poor a quality and too broken a surface to tempt either preemptor or purchaser. About 15,000 acres is bottom land along the Driftwood River as shown by the green line on area No.1. About half of this land is in meadow and the remainder covered with a light poplar growth. All of this land is of some value
for agriculture and will undoubtedly be preempted or staked for purchase. As a matter of fact, I understand a party is now making plans for staking this bottom land for purchase.


I recommend that the whole of the area described be withdrawn from location for purchase, until a survey can be made of the agricultural land, when the reserve will be lifted from the latter. There is only a limited area of land in this region of any value for agriculture which is not already taken up by application to purchase and if not inconsistent with the policy of the Land Department, I would recommend that this land be open to preemption only and all application to purchase denied.

Approved .... Oct. 18th ..... "Jas. Turnbull"

"R.E. Allen".........
Examining Officer

District Forester.
REPORT ON CROWN TIMBERLAND

Hazelton Forest District
Fort Fraser Land District.

Area No. 2.

1. Description of Area.

Starting from the north east corner of pre-emption No. 1755, (Olson's) thence due east to divide between Omineca and Tacla Lake, thence following said divide for twelve miles in a southern direction to Manson Trail, thence following said trail in a south westerly direction to Tacla Lake, 9 miles, and thence following the shore line of Tacla Lake to point of commencement.

Scale: 4 miles to the inch.

2. Estimate of Timber.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{Total } 50,000,000 \text{ Mbd. feet} \\
&\text{Area 10,000 acres} \\
&\text{Average 5,000 feet M.Bd. per acre}
\end{align*}
\]

3. Species.

Spruce 40%. Balsam 40%. Jack-Pine and Poplar 20%.

4. Topography.

Country flat and more or less rolling, after
leaving mountain slope, with a gradual incline towards the Lake. Creeks small and wide and open.

5. Remarks.

A total area of this proposed reserve is approximately 100,000 acres. Of this as has been stated approximately 10,000 acres is merchantable timber. 50,000 is barren mountain top and 40,000 young growth and poplar. The timber on this area is patchy, the lower basin growths being fairly well matured and of a good quality, while on the higher ridges and along the shore of the Lake the timber is younger. Most of the good timber is well back from the Lake. The soil generally is of a gravelly nature unfit for agricultural purposes, and it will be working a hardship on no one to reserve the area, though a good part of it is young growth, which does not come anywhere near the required amount per acre. At the mouth of Nitka Creek an Indian by the name of Daniel Te-De has applied for pre-emption, but as he belongs to the Babine Indian Reserve he can scarcely expect to have it granted. His is the only piece of land that is worth consideration from an agricultural point of view in the whole area.


I would recommend that the whole of this
area be placed under timber reserve.

Approved Oct. 18th

"R.E. Allen"
District Forester.

"Jas. Turnbull"
Examining Officer.
REPORT ON CROWN TIMBERLAND.

Hazelton Forest District
Fort Fraser Land District.

Area No. 3.

1. Description of Area.

Starting from a point on Tacla Lake on the south bank of the mouth of Wentertrail Creek, (sometimes wrongly called Frying-Pan Creek), thence due west 12 miles to top of divide between Sabine and Frying-Pan, thence north west following said divide for fifteen miles, thence two miles to head of Tacla Lake and thence following the shore line of Tacla Lake to point of commencement.

Scale: Four miles to the inch.

2. Estimate of Timber.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Total} & \quad 180,000,000 \text{ M.Bd. feet} \\
\text{Approximately} & \quad \text{Area 30,000 acres.} \\
\text{Average} & \quad 6000 \text{ M.Bd. feet per acre.}
\end{align*}
\]

3. Species.

Spruce 40\%. Balsam 30\%. Jack-Pine 20\%. Poplar 10\%.
4. **Topography.**

Mountain slopes precipitous. Country benchy to foot of slope, with a considerable amount of flat land next to the lake. Creeks deep and full of canyons.

5. **Remarks.**

The total area is approximately 72,000 acres of which 30,000 as has already been stated is merchantable timber. 30, to 40,000 above timber line and 10,000 acres barren and poplar growth. This is one of the best matured patches on the whole lake. A strip of about two miles broad has been burnt through the centre of the area running north and south and this strip is still barren and littered with fallen timber. Some of the timber in the angle of the lake and the Wintertrail Creek seem to have been staked at one time but I failed to find any survey stakes. Almost the entire area is underlaid with merchantable coal, which while it is not staked for prospecting is already arousing considerable interest amongst the prospectors.

6. **Recommendations.**

I would recommend that the whole of this area be withdrawn from location for purchase, Such agricultural land as there is is under a heavy growth of timber
and if the coal should amount to anything the timber would be required for mining purposes. Under the present circumstances there is no likelihood of anyone taking up a preemption anywhere within the area.

Approved "Oct. 18th." "Jas. Turnbull"

Examining Officer.

"R.E. Allen"

District Forester.
REPORT ON CROWN TIMBERLAND.

Hazelton Forest District.  October 8th, 1913.
Fort Fraser Land District.

Area No. 4.

1. Description of Area.

Starting from the north east corner of surveyed lot number 2090 and following shore line of north west arm of Tacla Lake in a north westerly direction for fourteen miles to a point on the north bank of Peggie Creek, thence west two miles to height of land, between the north west arm and Young River drainage, thence south east following height of said land for fourteen miles to north west corner of lot 2090.

Scale: Four miles to the inch.

2. Estimate of Timber.

\[
\begin{align*}
{\text{Total}} & {\quad 28,000,000 \text{ M.Bd. feet}} \\
{\text{Approximately}} & {\quad 4,000 \text{ acres.}} \\
{\text{Average}} & {\quad 7,000 \text{ M.Bd. feet. per acre.}}
\end{align*}
\]

3. Species.

Spruce 70\%. Balsam 20\%. Jack-Pine 10\%.

4. Topography.

The north west corner area is flat for four miles along the shore and one mile back from the shore.
The rest of the area is precipitous.

5. **Remarks.**

Only the timber at the north end of the area is merchantable. The remainder of the reserve is healthy young timber growing on a precipitous slope.

6. **Recommendations.**

I would recommend that the whole of this area be withdrawn from location for purchase or preemption. Practically none of this area is fit for agriculture, but the more or less flat proportion at the north western end might tempt some land staker to stake for purchase.

Approved. *Oct. 18th*          "Jas. Turnbull"

Examining Officer

"P. E. Allen"
District Forester.
REPORT ON CROWN TIMBERLAND.

Hazelton Forest District. October 8th, 1913.

Fort Fraser Land District.

Area No. 5.

1. Description of Area.

Starting from the north west corner post of surveyed lot No. 2090, thence north to height of land between north west arm of Tacla Lake and Young River, thence east following said height of land five miles, thence south west five miles crossing Young River Valley to height of land between Young River and Babine, thence east four miles to height of land between South Tacla and Babine, thence following said height in a southern direction for nine miles, thence in an eastern direction for six miles to a point on south Tacla two miles from foot of Lake, thence following shore line of Lake to south east corner post of lot 2090 and point of commencement.

Scale: Four miles to the inch.

2. Estimate of Timber.

Approximately.

( Total 42,000,000 M.Bd. feet. )
( Area 6,000 acres. )
( Average 7,000 M.Bd. feet per acre. )

3. Species.

Spruce 35%. Jack-Pine 35%. Balsam 20%. 
Poplar 10%.

4. Topography.

Young River Valley is benchy from the River to slope of mountain on both sides. The slope itself is steep. From the mouth of Young River to the Southern end of the area the slope is gradual from shore line to height of land, except where broken by intercepting creeks which are short and full of canyons.

5. Remarks.

In the event of a local market being provided for timber the Young River area would make an ideal logging proposition, Young River itself being of sufficient volume to allow driving operations to be carried on. The whole of the Young River agricultural land (timber) and more of an non-agricultural character was staked for purchase this summer by Joe Murphy for Mr. Bowling who in turn is working for some Victoria Company.


I would recommend that this area be reserved from location for purchase or preemption. While the timber on the slope towards Tacla Lake is not at present of a merchantable nature, it gives promise of being a first
rate crop when it reaches maturity.

Approved. "Oct. 18th"

"R.E. Allen"
District Forester

"Jas. Turnbull"
Examining Officer.
REPORT ON CROWN TIMBERLAND.

Hazelton Forest District. October 8th, 1913.
Fort Fraser Land District.

Area No. 6.

1. Description of Area.

Starting from the south east corner of surveyed lot No. 3646, thence south two miles to height between Tremblay Lake and Babine Lake, thence following said height in a north westerly direction for seventeen miles to the west bank of the mouth of Tatche River, thence west seventeen miles following the shore line of Tremblay Lake to the north east corner of lot 3646.

Scale: Four miles to the inch.

2. Estimate of Timber.

In this area most of the merchantable timber is covered by the eight timber limits shown on sketch. The remainder while it is not in the meantime valuable promises to be a splendid crop of spruce later on, but the circumstances make it almost impossible to give an estimate of the amount of timber in the remainder of the area.

3. Topography.

A gradual slope from height of land to lake ex-
except where broken into by creeks.

4. **Remarks.**

This land is more or less flat and while it is not agricultural land the mere fact of it not being precipitous is enough to make it appeal to the average land staker and the young timber included in the area is of a good healthy growth and worth saving.

5. **Recommendations.**

I would recommend that this area be reserved from location for purchase or preemption.

Approved. Oct. 18th

"R.E. Allen"

"Jas. Turnbull"
MAP OF OMINECA RIVER.
10th - 40 miles.

Timbered areas marked in green.
Agricultural areas marked in red.
Young growth in yellow.