

12-28-1913

The District of Maine

Moses Greenleaf

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Recommended Citation

Greenleaf, Moses, "The District of Maine" (1913). *Moses Greenleaf, Cartographer*. 116.
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Chas. Hammond Esq. Sec. for
 Legislature, for information relating to the land of the Commonwealth, I have obtained
 for the purpose of my possession, the following statement

The District of Maine contains ^{not far from} 34,680 square miles
 of which about 16,175 sq miles are already sold & located, &
~~18,505 sq miles~~ ^{then} remains in the possession of the Commonwealth
 18,505 sq miles or 11,843,200 acres, out of which about
 430,000 acres is reserved for the Penobscot Indians, & probably
 about 45,000 is occupied by a number of French, on the St John
 in the county of Hancock, who were ~~settled~~ ^{settled} about or previous
 to the year 1784 - which leaves belonging to the Commonwealth
 11,368,200 acres, out of which is to be deducted sufficient for
 the ~~grants~~ ^{grants} already made & not located, & ~~there remains~~ a few
 townships appropriated to making certain roads, & the remain-
 der, which after these deductions will doubtless exceed 11,000,000
 acres constitutes the disposable fund of the Commonwealth in Eastern
 lands -

If the whole tract of 11,843,200 acres is considered in regard
 to the several points from which emigrants may proceed into it
 & to which they will naturally resort as their nearest market
 the facilities of communication being ^{supposed} considered equal, it will
 be found that the five nearest markets will probably attract
 to themselves severally the population of sections containing very
 nearly the number of acres subjoined -

^{or Penobscot} Hallowell	- 619,500 acres
^{or Penobscot river} Bangor	- 3,745,300 "
Passamaquoddy	220,800 "
Fredericton	- 5,913,600
Levee	- 1,344,000
<hr/> Total - 11,843,200	

From this it appears that when this territory shall be settled
 the inhabitants of nearly two thirds its extent will, unless
 measures are taken to open the best possible communication
 from Bangor or ^{Hallowell} ~~Hallowell~~ into the heart of the territory,
 be obliged to depend on a foreign market for their supplies, &
 will carry to them their produce - This State, as well as the
 nation will thus lose all the benefit arising from the interchange
 of products between ^{this part of} its own commercial & agricultural popu-
 -lation -

The central part of the greatest body of good land belonging
 to the Commonwealth lies about due north from Bangor

& is distant about 120 miles in a straight line. The most central point of communication with the much the largest part of the interior is about north ten degrees west from Bangor, & distant about 100 miles in a straight line. The nearest practicable route to this point must pass between the Spencer mountains - thence to the east of the Glen mountains, & thence ~~to~~ North.

From this point there are ^{good} water communications in different directions exceeding 290 miles, through the States land alone, with only four portages the longest of which does not exceed two miles, & the land on them is low & practicable for canals.

Considering the country in ~~reference~~ ^{relation} referring to the quality of the land, or ~~the~~ proportion of good land, it appears from a comparison of all the accounts at hand ^{of the section} that immediately west of Moose head Lake, ~~there is~~ ^{there is} about 276,000 acres, about one third is good land. - The whole tract west of this (about 849,000 acres) ^{including} that in the county of Oxford is mountainous, & about one fourth good land.

Between Moose head Lake & the East branch of Penobscot, including a tract north of this, about the heads of the Crookhook, are about 1,180,000 acres, of which one third may be considered good land - this tract is generally mountainous - not so rugged as in the tract last mentioned.

Between Penobscot, Seaboard, & Metawamkeag, generally level, say about 840,000 acres - one half good land.

North of Metawamkeag is a tract of low swampy land, ^{about 300,000 acres probably} of which ^{not} more than one fourth is good land - ^{the remainder} and about 1,400,000 acres of which one half is good.

In the N E corner of the District is a mountainous tract probably 780,000 acres, quality unknown -

The remaining land, about 6,600,000 acres, is on the waters of the St John & the northwestern branches of the Penobscot, is a continued body of good land, extending from the eastern to the north western frontier of which three fourths is good land. The eastern part is generally level, the western rises in large swells, there are no mountains of consequence from the ten townships laid out on the Kennebec road until very near the north eastern extremity - The most central part of the good land in this tract is rather west of the meridian of Bangor -

The tract on the eastern frontier can be made easily ^{most conveniently}

accessible to settlers, only from the St John. The remainder may be easily rendered accessible, both by land & water, from different points already settled within the District -

In estimating the ^{different} proportion of good land in the several sections as above described, reference is had only to land of the first quality in the several sections - the proportions ^{between the} of second & third ^{subsoils} qualities & ~~to the land~~ have not been so much the objects of my research & I can therefore only conjecture them - They may perhaps be best estimated by comparison with other parts of the District already known -

From ten years of interested observation, & the concurrent opinion of all ^{of all} with whom I have had opportunity to converse & on whose judgment I could rely, I am fully convinced that to fill the interior of the District ^{rapidly} with inhabitants, nothing is more necessary than good roads & liberal terms of sale - that on this subject parsimony is real waste, & an extensive, liberal & vigorous system of improvement the only true economy -

West of interior of Maine
Barber & Hammond