

The bench-lands lying between the lake and the mountain slopes from Martin creek to the west branch of Muskeg creek are in general suitable for agriculture. This tract is about fifteen miles long by three miles wide. It is covered with a heavy stand of poplar and scattered spruce. The former are badly diseased from *Polyporus igniarius*, over seventy per cent of the stand being affected. The soil is a clay loam with scattered small muskegs and willow sloughs.

This land will undoubtedly be farmed some day, but it is improbable that it will be settled for many years to come, on account of the heavy clearing necessary.

The northern slopes of the plateau proper which form the south side of Martin creek valley, and all the subsidiary ridges north of Martin creek, are clothed with poplar from four to ten inches in diameter at breast-height, badly diseased. The latter ridges slope to the north gradually down to the height-of-land country forming the head-waters of the Wabi-kaw watershed.



Photo D. Roy Cameron, 1911.

PLATE 9.—Jack Pine Ridge. (Tp. 73, Rg. 2, W5M.)

The west branch of Muskeg creek, just above where it enters the muskeg, has about two square miles of prairie. This is so isolated, however, as to be of little value at present. Another patch of semi-prairie is found at the mouth of Martin creek, about one square mile in all. This is a fine situation for a ranger's headquarters.

The summit type of the Martin Mountain country is the summit-plateau type described before. A fire at the head of a small creek flowing into Martin creek has swept over about seven square miles of this type.

The hills between the south fork of Martin creek and Divide lake have been burnt over, an area of about six square miles.

Several areas of good spruce occur in this district. There are two along the lake shore. The first is in or near sections 6 and 7, township 71, range 5, west of the fifth meridian. Here there are about 500 acres which will average twelve thousand feet, board measure, per acre, or 6,000,000 feet, board measure. The timber is generally of small diameter, ten to fifteen inches, but the stand is very thick and the trees tall and clear. This area is only about three quarters of a mile from the lake.