

hospitable people made our short sojourn most enjoyable. Many historical narratives were related of trade in the early days and these were augmented by reference to some old journals kept at the post. In addition to our party was a representative of an English mining company, Harold Paull, who was on his way to Oxford House where the company's prospectors had recently made some encouraging finds of gold-bearing quartz.

#### *Norway House to Hudson Bay.*

Our party left Norway House on Monday morning of August 19th, though for the first time in my season's experience I cannot say early, as our chief Indian guide did not appear on the scene till nine o'clock. We now had four canoes, including Moor's gas canoe, and a party of eight whites and eight natives. Paull also left about the same time with a canoe and three natives. The weather was very fine and warm and continued so for several days. Mosquitoes were rather troublesome at times on shore but we were always free from these pests while on the water.

After travelling for about an hour our canoemen suddenly put to shore and prepared to "make a fire.". It appeared they had not had breakfast and our feelings may be better imagined than described. A council of war was forthwith held on the spot and the Riot Act read in no uncertain terms. We gave them plainly to understand that for the remainder of the journey they had to dig in and work or there would be trouble. Our parley had its desired effect and after this matters progressed much better, though our chief guide did not know the way. Fortunately another canoeman, or mere boy as he was, managed to put the old fellow right in his moment of confusion.

The route lay almost north along the most easterly channel of the Nelson. The westerly channel follows Playgreen lake as far as Cross lake, into which the easterly empties, as well as Minago river. The latter forms the old canoe route between the Nelson and Saskatchewan by way of Moose lake. A few miles below Norway House are found Sea River falls, which are passed by a short portage. A few miles below these Paull bid us farewell and turned to the east to follow a chain of lakes on the headwaters of the Hayes river as far as Oxford House. This section of country is very rocky and covered with small woods. Some good balsam was observed but the tamarack has been nearly all killed by injurious forest insects.

For three days we travelled steadily northward, though by a winding and circuitous route. Many magnificent rapids were encountered around which good portages were invariably found. In our party were a geologist and a mining engineer, namely Professor Wallace and Charles Campbell, and an additional interest was aroused in our progress by their descriptions of the geological features of interest we were passing. Before reaching Pipestone lake the Keewatin formation gives way to Huronian and this again gives way to Laurentian.

On reaching Pipestone lake we landed for a few minutes at the end of Ross' Island at a spot where the young son of Indian Chief Ross of Cross lake had been killed by lightning eleven days previously. The spot is marked by a wooden cross. On an island in Cross lake there is a large modern stone building in which the Oblate fathers conduct a school for Indian children. We were informed that about eighty pupils were then in attendance. A short stop was made at noon of August 20th at the Hudson's Bay post on this lake where Manager Gordon welcomed us. The land surface in this vicinity consists of a heavy overburden of clay and the many gardens of the settlement were in a thriving condition. Potatoes were in blossom and hay was then being cut. There is considerable good agricultural land about here and the results of experiments already made indicate that farming could be successfully carried on.