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GOLD ON THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

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During the past half century the North Saskatchewan River has yielded more than half a million dollars worth of gold to the placer miners who have toiled with shovel and grizzly on its gravel bars, and who, in later years, with larger ambition, have used dredges to dig up more gravel from beneath greater depths of water than it was possible for men to dig with their shovels alone.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

The North Saskatchewan River rises in a number of rapid streams which are fed by glaciers and snowfields in the high interior ranges of the Rocky Mountains. Before issuing from the mountains many of these streams unite to form the main branch of the river, which then flows eastward and at about 150 miles from its source is joined by the Clearwater river near the site of the old fur-trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company, called Rocky Mountain House. Below the junction of the Clearwater it turns abruptly northward, and after keeping to this direction for forty or fifty miles again swings gradually eastward, which general direction it maintains past the towns of Edmonton, Battleford, Prince Albert, and Le Pas, until it empties into the great north-western expansion of Lake Winnipeg. Its total length in this distance is about 1,250 miles.

In the mountains its many branches flow in steep-sided mountain valleys. After leaving the mountains, the main stream cuts through the wooded ridges of the foot hills and then it flows across the great plains in a valley from 100 to 300 feet deep and a mile or more in width. Finally, 280 miles above its mouth, it leaves this valley and flows in a comparatively shallow channel through a low-lying forested country to Lake Winnipeg.

The general width of the stream in the vicinity of Edmonton is from 400 to 900 feet.