

here and there. The reason is that proper drainage into the creeks has been barred by the deposits of debris and mud left along the banks by the water during the spring floods. The banks have thus been raised to a considerable height above the land behind and effectually hold back the surface water on it.

The creek by which the Abitibi River was finally reached is a typical one of the country. It is extremely tortuous, drops down in many places with short rapids and falls and is often badly log-jammed. Some of these jams are 200 feet across and have well-beaten portages around them, showing that they have for many years withstood the great rush of the spring floods when the waters rise a great many feet. This creek enters the Black River about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the junction of the latter with the Abitibi. The Black River is 200 ft. wide at its mouth and gradually narrows to 60 ft., which width it then maintains. For 30 miles up, the river is easily navigable for canoes, but at this point it becomes very rapid for a long distance and so shallow that only in high water can a canoe be poled up it. The general direction of the flow is north-west. In this 30 miles there are several short falls of which the greatest is 18 ft. The country passed through is similar to that already described, being gently undulating, swampy in parts and especially good for agricultural purposes along the river. The banks show many exposures of Huronian schists all more or less impregnated with pyrites or pyrrhotite. The spruce in this district is fair, the best growing near the river; but several areas covering a great many square miles have within the last few years been laid waste by the ravages of forest fires. The character of the lands along the Abitibi River as far down as the 'Big Bend'—about half way to its mouth—is much the same. The river banks slope up to from 50' to 75', and then the land recedes back at this level in gentle undulations with occasionally a hill or range of hills. The soil is of clay and very fertile judging from the luxuriant growth of young trees and all kinds of berry bushes. Portions of the land are swampy, but here, with few exceptions, the depth of the moss is not more than a foot or two and this would soon dry up if the trees were cleared off. Most of the timber on and near the river banks is white poplar, growing in tall groves which are the natural results of very old brulés. There are still numerous areas of splendid spruce standing out at intervals along the shores and in strong contrast to the unimposing poplar. These extend along the river for as much as two miles in