

and clay, often upwards of fifty feet high. Much of the clay shows distinct evidence of stratification, and the different beds are seen highly crumpled and folded.

Between these banks, the river, varying from one to two hundred yards in breadth, flows with a swift and even current, and is joined by a number of small streams on either side, the chief one being the Neepee River, which flows from the eastward and joins the main stream at the head of tide, seven miles from the sea. This tributary descends into the valley by a beautiful fall, over 100 feet high.

Forest fires.

About thirty miles up the river and northwards, the country has been traversed by frequent and extensive fires, which have left very little of the original forest, the region being, for the most part, covered with second-growth timber of aspen-poplar, white birch, banksian pine, and spruce, none of which has attained a large size. The first fall is formed by two chutes, each being about fifty feet high, with a whirlpool between them, into which a large number of logs have, from time to time, been carried, and before escaping from its influence, having been so broken and bruised as to be unfit for commercial purposes, remain piled up on the shore. Above this fall the river runs N. 30° W., and continues in this direction for ten miles, with a sluggish current. The hills on either side rise to elevations from 800 to 1,000 feet above its level, being for the most part bare or covered with small second-growth timber.

The river now flows from the west for nine miles, in the lower four of which it is very rough, having four chutes of fifteen, ten, ten and twenty feet, respectively, with strong rapids between them, necessitating a portage of canoes for that distance.

From here to Wawwashton, distant ten miles, the course is N. 35° W., with two short portages, passing falls of twelve and thirty feet.

Long Portage.

At Wawwashton a large branch comes in from the eastward; and the main stream, turning westward, falls in the next ten miles fully 500 feet from the general plateau into the river valley, and is quite impassable for canoes, so that a portage, over a mountain upwards of 1,000 feet high, must be made. A week was spent transporting canoes, provisions, etc., over this distance. Beyond this, the river turns to the north, and for sixteen miles widens out into Lake Natuakimin, with a width of from one-half to one and a-half miles; lying very little below the general surface of the surrounding country, which is here comparatively flat, and characterized by low hills only, which seldom rise more than 200 feet above the water-level.

The river next runs from the west for fifteen miles, having become narrow and rapid, with a mile and a-half portage at the end of the course. The banks and country are similar to those on the last course.