

From Sawridge we worked along the north shore of the lake as far as The Narrows. The season was very rainy and the trails, therefore, in very poor shape, was found necessary to leave the main camp in charge of the cook at the lake shore and do the work by subcamps. Subcamp parties of two would take two horses and a few days' food, and work their way back into the hills as far as possible.

Continued rains hampered the work very much, and made travelling through the thick brush very disagreeable. It was the middle of August before The Narrows were reached. Inasmuch as the country along the north shore west of The Narrows is largely muskeg, I considered it best to return to Sawridge and start work in the Swan Hills before the season should become too late. Sub-parties ascended all the creeks flowing into the lake from the Swan Hills, one crossing to the head-waters of the Saulteaux river. The south shore at The Narrows was reached by September 10. F. McVickar returned from here to college. Several side-trips from the Swan River settlement, and a week's bad weather, prevented our starting for the Swan Hills proper until September 25. These delays rendered it impossible for me to take Lewis into the hills. He therefore returned to college at this time.



PLATE 2. - Packing across Muskeg Brook.

Photo D. Roy Cameron, 1911.

The supplies and baggage were hauled by wagon up the Swan River to its junction with the overland trail to the Klondyke twenty five miles above the settlement. The main camp was set up there. From this point three long side-trips were made; one east along the 18th base line to the head waters of the Saulteaux to connect up with former work; one south along the Ft. Assiniboine; and one up towards the head-waters of the Swan river to Freeman lake, across the hills.

The lateness of the season, lack of horse-feed and coming of snow necessitated our return to the lake when these trips were completed. Two short trips to complete timber examinations near the settlement closed the work for the summer. The pack-horses were disposed of at the settlement, and on October 25 the start was made from Wapiti on our return trip. We travelled down the Athabaska river by canoe among floating ice cakes. Athabaska Landing was reached just three days before the final freeze-up.