

duct me by the only dry path towards the Lake of the Woods, as far as the boundary of his hunting grounds.

On the morning of the 23rd, I proceeded along the south side of "La Rivière Seine," or German Creek, which flows into the Red River, a little below its junction with the Assiniboine. There are farm houses and good road along it for a distance of five miles, when the Indian track then begins, which keeps close to the valleys of the creek for eight miles, between it and the marsh which is shown on the map.

This dry space varies from half a mile to a quarter of a mile wide, crossed by two small sluggish creeks, which, if widened and deepened, would effectually drain the marsh. There is plenty of good timber along the valley, consisting of poplars, elm, and black ash, with small oaks. Leaving the German creek here on our left, we went along a low ridge about one foot above the level of the marsh, and varying in width from fifty to one hundred yards. It runs in a south-east direction for about three miles, and then widens out on the left as far as I could see, and on the right to half a mile. At this point we were about three miles from German Creek, which we lose sight of now for some time. Continuing in the same direction for three miles more, through beautiful rich grass, with clumps of aspen on the left and high willows on the right, we came to a creek called Oak Creek, which is about two chains wide, but so still and sluggish that it rather resembles a long lake. Our course then lay along it nearly due east for two miles and a half, when the creek then turns to the south. This would be an admirable place for a settlement, the land being as rich as any in the whole country, and there being a large supply of oaks, averaging one foot six inches in diameter, and poplars suitable for fencing. On the south side of Oak Creek the open prairie stretches away to the horizon, the greater part of that which was within view being dry, there being only a few patches of wet land.

Leaving Oak Creek we went through a country of this character for about nine miles in a south-east direction, our track winding, however, a little to avoid the wet places, a few of which we had to cross, none of them, however, being more than seven or eight chains wide, and easy of crossing. There are numerous clumps of small aspens and willows in every direction. We then proceeded nearly due east for about seven miles, German Creek being from one mile and a half to two miles and a half on the north, a beautiful and rich prairie lying between us and it, and on the south, one mile distant, runs a well-wooded ridge parallel with our course. Then turning to south-east we wound round numerous and large clumps of aspens, from five to thirty feet high, and willows for seven miles, when we came to a rising ground so densely covered with young aspens and fallen timber that it was impossible for carts to go further. We therefore left them here, and made packs of a few things for the horses to carry. Here the land becomes of a lighter description, being of light sandy and clay loam. The timber has been all burnt. The ground was so thickly strewn with the fallen logs that it was with much difficulty the horses could travel. Two miles further on we came to the banks of German Creek. Its valley here is from fifteen to twenty chains wide, and about forty feet deep. It is full of excellent timber, elm, oak, poplar, and black ash, all large enough for building purposes. The creek, which is here very rapid, is thirty feet wide and about one foot six inches deep. We follow its course now for twenty-seven miles, never being more than half a mile away from it. The country through which we passed is for the most part covered with trees of various kinds, growing in large clumps, balsam poplar, aspen, tamarack, balsam spruce, cedar, and oak. The whole country has been burnt some years ago; the remains of the timber everywhere to be found indicate that there was once a vast forest of large trees.

The Indian guide now said he had come to the boundary of his own country, and could not bring me further; and though I tried to induce him, by every means, he remained firm to his resolution.

He was unwilling for some time even to give me a description of the country beyond, but finally I procured from him the following account:—

At half a day's journey on snow shoes, or a distance of fifteen miles from where we were, there is a mountain or ridge, thickly covered with trees, stretching towards the Lake of the Woods. A part of this intervening space is a swamp, in which grow tamarack, cedar, and spruce; the remainder is dry ground, covered with small aspen and willow. Passing along the "mountain," you come to a marsh which extends to the Lake of the Woods, but through it there flows a river, up which large canoes could come within the hearing of a gun shot, or about two miles from the mountain. The entire length of the way I had come was seventy miles, fifty miles at least of this distance being fit for settlement, and throughout the whole of it a road could be made without the slightest difficulty, and at little cost. If time and means had permitted I would have pushed through to the lake, but under the circumstances I considered it better not to attempt it.

From the description given by the Indian of the country, and which I think may be relied on as correct, I am of the opinion that a road can be easily made through it.

I returned by the same track as I came by for some distance, when I crossed German Creek at a place about thirty-five miles from its mouth, and then continued along the north side of it.

At this crossing place there are two or three houses, the commencement of a settlement, which is likely to be quickly extended.

On the 1st of October I set out again to examine the country between the Assiniboine, on the forty-ninth parallel; and more particularly the forest which was said to extend for so many miles to the south from the river at Prairie Portage.

Proceeding along the road to St. Paul, I turned off from it where it crosses "La Rivière Sale" (or Stinking River), and went by the hunter's track on the south side of the river, along which it goes for thirty miles, cutting across the large bends of the valley, which is very winding, and through which the river meanders in a remarkable manner.

The country lying between it and the Assiniboine is very marshy, and is covered with willows and clumps of small aspens. In the valley, and along both sides, grow oak and elm, and some few ash. Many trees two feet in diameter; they extend the whole way up the river. On the south side there is a prairie, apparently as level and boundless as the ocean; the grass on it is most beautiful and luxuriant, indicating the richness of the soil.