

The Swan river is, perhaps, the most important stream entering the lake from the south. Its valley carries the lowland poplar type far into the heart of the Swan hills. The lower twenty miles of this river, from Woppa to Swan Creek, has prairie patches on either side from the water. There are some twenty-five square miles of prairie or semi prairie here.

Above this area are patches of heavy cottonwood and spruce in the river flats, for twenty-five miles upstream.

West of Swan river the spur ridges running to the lake shore are almost as flat, outside of the prairie patches, there is an immense area of clay loam land covered with poplar. This country stretches from Swan river westerly to the end of the lake. Lack of time prevented an examination of this area, but there should be at least 100 square miles of arable land between the lake shore and the hills.

East of Swan river lies the so-called north 'shield' of the Swan hills described before, which, though not agricultural owing to the roughness of the country, possesses all those elements which go to make up the finest soil.



Photo F. McVicker, 1911
PLATE 12. The Narrows, Lesser Slave Lake, showing hay meadows.

Four main timber types occur in this region:—

1. Birch,
2. Poplar,
3. Muskeg,
4. Spruce,

The birch type is hardly separable from the poplar, into which it blends. It is found only in isolated localities in small patches, where soil and exposure conditions are suitable. Examples of this type may be seen on the lower slopes of the ridges near the mouth of Nine-mile creek.

The poplar type covers all the northern ends of the spur-ridges coming from the main range. The trees are from three to fourteen inches in diameter at breast height, with an average of about eight inches. Stands vary in yield according to site conditions; defect, as elsewhere, is bad. The average yield is that worked out above, viz., 7.2 cord per acre. East of the Swan river there are some 100,000 acres of this type within the boundaries of this district. This is a temporary type, the