

I then proceeded to the Indian Head and commenced the survey of the reserves for the bands of Assinibouines then *en route* from Fort Walsh.

This reserve is situated on the summit and southern slope of a "height of land," or water shed, which extends across the country from Moose Mountain to the Long or Last Mountain. The prominent hills at the north-east corner of the reserve are called the Indian Head.

Starting from the north-east corner of this reserve and going south, the country for eight miles is thickly wooded with poplar and willow. There are large quantities of poplar suitable for building and fencing purposes, swamps and ponds are quite numerous, and a couple of good sized lakes are passed. The soil is a sandy loam with clay sub-soil. The next four miles before reaching the south-east corner is over an open undulating plain descending slightly towards the south. The soil is a clay loam with a few gravel ridges and glacial boulders.

The southern boundary, after leaving the gravel ridges of the south-east corner, runs over a thick clay loam prairie for its entire length of three townships. This country slopes gradually to the south.

The west boundary passes over an open undulating prairie of clay loam with a few low willows. The soil becomes blacker as we ascend the slope.

From the north-east corner going west along the north boundary the first six miles are partially wooded with groves of poplar and willow. Most of the timber along this line is on the reserve; but a good deal of it has been killed by fires. The soil is a black sandy loam with some gravel, and a few boulders on the surface. At ten miles a creek flowing north is crossed. There is some fine building and fencing timber in the valleys of this creek and its branches. Two miles farther and the line crosses another creek with some poplar on the slopes of its valley. This creek runs north into Swimming Lake, a picturesque sheet of water only a mile north of the reserve. From this creek to the north-west corner the line runs over an open high prairie with some shallow ponds and a few low willows. The soil is a sandy clayloam.

In my opinion these creeks would be a desirable place to establish one of the bands for whom the reserve is intended; another good point would be on the large lake which lies in the north-west corner, as shown by the accompanying sketch marked (a), illustrating the survey of this reserve.

Some of the Indians in the Ocean Man's Band expressed a wish to have their reserve at this lake, which is said to contain large fish. We saw ducks and geese in myriads on its surface, chickens were very plentiful on the border of the woods.

This part of the country would therefore appear to be an attractive place for these unsettled Plain Indians. The soil is of the choicest quality; there is a good proportion of hay grounds, wood and plenty of water, and the Canadian Pacific Railway is only a few miles to the north.

On the 20th May, a severe snow storm set in, preceded by a high west wind. Fortunately, I was camped in a good place for shelter, wood and grass for the animals. This violent storm was followed by a hard frost; water in a bucket outside my tent froze to the depth of an inch, and the snow drifts were quite solid. I observed that many birds were frozen to death on this occasion.

On the 24th the party started for Muskow-peatung's to complete the survey of the reserve for his band.

About this time my mules were all more or less attacked by mange; a fact I first discovered after they swam the Qu'Appelle River. A few washings with carbolic soap and the application of a mixture of train oil, sulphur and turpentine, completely extirpated these pernicious parasites.

As will be seen by referring to the annexed sketch marked (b), Muskow-peatung's reserve adjoins Pasquais' on the west side and extends up the Qu'Appelle River eleven miles.

Although it is desirable to locate the boundaries of the reserves so as to coincide with the legal sub-divisions of the Dominion Lands surveys, still, in this case, it was not practicable to do so, and at the same time meet the wishes of the Indians who preferred to have the rear or south boundary a straight line as shown by the plan.