

THE MACKENZIE BASIN.

Mr. E. Stewart, Superintendent of Forestry, is now preparing a report for publication of his visit during the past summer down the Mackenzie River and as far as the delta of that stream. In returning he crossed the mountains with Indians to the Porcupine River which he followed to its junction with the Yukon at Fort Yukon where he got a steamer south to Dawson, coming from there to Vancouver by the usual route via Skagway. About three months were spent on the trip and the distance covered from Edmonton to Vancouver was upwards of 4000 miles.

Mr. Stewart's main object was to gain a knowledge of the timber in the basin of the great Mackenzie River, but he also took note of the general character of the country and its natural resources, as far as a hurried journey would permit.

The area drained by this stream, including its tributaries, many of which, such as the Athabasca, Peace and Liard, are themselves great rivers, is greater than that drained by the St. Lawrence above Montreal, including the Great Lakes, and nearly three times that of the Saskatchewan.

From Athabasca Landing to Fort McPherson, a distance of 1854 miles was made by water, first down the Athabasca to Lake Athabasca; across a bay of that lake; then down the Great Slave River and across Great Slave Lake; then down the Mackenzie proper, nearly a thousand miles to the delta; then a short distance up the Peel River to Fort McPherson, which lies well within the Arctic Circle and is the most northerly of all the Hudson Bay Company's posts.

It is not possible here to give details of this interesting trip, but members of the Forestry Association will be supplied with copies of the report now in course of preparation as soon as it is issued.

Mr. Stewart says, among other things which greatly impressed him, was that the general character of the land, on the route from Athabasca Landing to Fort McPherson, is that of a rich, alluvial deposit, similar in appearance to that of our great prairies. Vegetable gardens were found at the different posts, as far north as Fort Good Hope, which is within twenty-five miles of the Arctic Circle. Another point was that he was never at any time beyond the limit of tree growth. Even at Fort McPherson, in latitude $67^{\circ} 26'$, the houses are built of spruce timber cut nearby, while the lumber for general use in flooring, sheeting, etc., is whip-sawed into lumber from logs, some of which were a foot in