

channel, which has an average width of only a quarter of a mile, and much less at a few points. The depth along the middle was found to average from forty to fifty feet. The current runs from two to four miles per hour, except at a swift place, called the Devil's Rapid, and another between three and four miles below it, where the velocity is greater, but still these swift places could be ascended by steamers. From Sipi-wesk Lake the course of the river is north-east for twelve miles, and then north by east, and nearly straight for about fifty-eight miles to the Grand Rapid.

The following table is a recapitulation of the distances, in straight lines, between the rapids or chutes on the Nelson River (by the channels followed) and the amount of fall in each. Those which might apparently be run downward (without improvement) by a river steamer are marked thus (*); those which might apparently be passed both upward and downward are marked thus (**). In some cases channels which were not examined might offer greater facilities for navigation than those which were explored:—

	Miles from last fall.	Fall in feet.
Sea River Falls, 37 miles from outlet of Lake Winnipeg (*)	4
North River Rapids (by another channel, probably *)	9	5
Slight Rapid (**).	5.	1
Seven rapids in four miles. (Three of them **, and two *)	6 to 10	18
Ebb and Flow Rapids (the corresponding rapids in the western channel *)	22	15
White Mud Falls	4	20
Swift water (for one mile **)	4 to 5	3
Bladder Portage Chute (*)	2	10
Overhill Portage Chute	6	15
Small Rapid (**).	1½	2
Small Rapid (**).	1	2
Red Rocks Rapid (crooked)	½	10
Small Rapid (**).	½	2
Chain-of-Rocks Rapids (**).	4	1

108

The general character of the country bordering the Nelson River from Norway House to the Goose-Hunting River, is pretty much the same. The whole surface appears to be overspread with light greyish clay, which forms an excellent soil. The rocks are seen beneath the clay in the islands and along the banks; and in the vicinity of the rapids, they crop out over a greater or less area. Where the river has formed itself into the single deep straight channel of almost uniform width from Sipi-wesk to Split Lake, the east bank is composed of clay, almost continuously, while more or less rock is exposed on the west bank. Higher up the Nelson, much bare rock is seen along the West River, and the soil is mostly sandy and poor all the way from Great Playgreen Lake to Cross Lake, thus contrasting with the margins of the East River. My track-survey did not extend much beyond Goose-Hunting River, but a country similar to that explored above this stream is said to continue to Split Lake.

Between the Grand Rapid and this lake, the Chain-of-Islands Rapid is said to be the only interruption to easy navigation.

From Gull Lake to the point which I reached from the sea, the river is broken by a number of bad rapids.

The lower part of the Nelson River from the sea upward will now be described.

Beacon Point, the low tongue of land lying between the mouths of the Hayes' and the Nelson Rivers, terminates in a shoal which projects a considerable distance out to sea.

I explored the latter river, as already stated, for about ninety miles from its