

time, and these lakes are probably then filled, while small streams drain them during the rest of the season.

The delta is heavily wooded with spruce as far north as latitude 63° 30', where it gradually dies out, and only willows and alders remain. These extend northward nearly to the sea, where the recently formed land is utterly devoid of any vegetation whatever. As the new land of recent years is formed and extends seaward, the land formed in earlier years is covered with a growth of young willows, while the older land still is marked by a forest growth of larger willows and alders as well as spruce, so that the age of the land can be reckoned by the age and character of the forest growth on it.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE PEEL RIVER DISTRICT.

The topography of the country through which the Peel river flows is simple, and has been occasionally referred to in previous portions of this report. Above the lower cañon and as far up probably as Aberdeen falls, it occupies a wide basin almost completely surrounded by low ranges of hills. Inclosed in this basin are a number of round topped hills or groups of hills, whose origin is due either to faulted blocks or uplifted anticlines. Along the eastern edge of the basin, and occupying a shallow depression in it, is a large area underlaid by Tertiary rocks. These must have been deposited in an inland sea whose boundaries were the encircling hills, and whose outlet was probably by the lower cañon of the Peel river.

Leaving the Tertiary basin the Peel cuts a deep and narrow gorge through the hills bounding the basin on the east, and enters again the plateau region. Through this it flows for 130 miles, cutting a deep valley sometimes a thousand feet deep into the clays, shales and sandstones. Looking over the plateau from any one of the bordering hills, it appears to be perfectly flat, and shows an unbroken sky-line that is uniformly level; but in reality it is made up of several long and gentle undulations, which are perceptible only by careful measurements of the height of the banks of the valley. These undulations have a general north and south trend, lying parallel to the range of mountains against which the plateau abuts to the west. The plateau has a long gentle slope to the northeast towards the valley of the Mackenzie river, while to the north it appears to break off sharply, forming a steep escarpment overlooking the coastal plain. The Peel river breaks through the escarpment at Satah river and enters the coastal plain, though it follows closely the base of the escarpment for several miles below.

Below Fort McPherson is the delta of the Mackenzie river, through which branches of both the Peel and Mackenzie rivers ramify in all