

which thousands of logs are piled up. Above this the river for 30 miles is a succession of falls with sluggish water between.

These portages culminate in one 10 miles long, the first 4 miles being up a mountain 1,000 ft. high, and unavoidable, as the river in this distance breaks through a high range of hills, and falls 500 ft. through a deep canyon with perpendicular walls.

In 1870 a great fire passed through this country, destroying hundreds of thousands of square miles of valuable timber, the area burnt reaching from the St. Maurice river on the west to beyond the Bersimis on the east, and from Lake St. John to the Height of Land. This vast region has a very desolate appearance, the blackened tree trunks standing or partly fallen on barren sandy soil or bare rocky hills, which have been whitened by the kaolinising action of the fire on their felspathic ingredients; a second growth, of small spruce and banksian pine is beginning to replace the old forests, and a profusion of blueberries grow everywhere, the only and great consolation for the desolate scenery. When the river was again reached, but one portage was encountered to Lake Pipmaukin, 40 miles distant.

Here our meagre diet of pork and flour was augmented by a supply of fish, large pike being taken on the troll below, while above the portage quantities of fine brook trout, averaging 3 lbs in weight, rose readily to the fly. These fish had apparently come out of the lake to deposit their spawn on the shallow gravel bars, in the swift running water of the river.

The date was the last week in August, and as I have since remarked these fish on the spawning grounds everywhere about this time, I think it would be well to have the present close season advanced a month, as now, the fish are taken upon the spawning beds with great ease in the open season.

Lake Pipmaukin is full of deep bays, and has an area of over 1,000 square miles. We were delayed here until Sept. 19th, partly owing to equinoctial gales which prevented us from crossing the lake in our small canoes. During the month of September the temperature fell every night to near or below freezing point, and sheet iron stoves were put up in the tents, which greatly added to our comfort.