

generally is thickly covered with small black spruce. Some fine groves of large white spruce are met with close to the banks of the larger streams. Stunted oaks on the ridges in the more open parts and some beautiful groves of tall, stately elms were seen, a very noticeable one of the latter being a grove near the foot of the Duck Mountain, a few miles south of Duck River. A few pleasant prairies here and there occur, but they are not numerous, and the country may be said to be generally thickly wooded. Forest fires in recent years have, however, destroyed the greater part of the timber that could have been converted into lumber, and instead there is now a close growth of small sticks as yet comparatively valueless. As was stated above, large areas are now covered with swamp or marsh, but this wet land could be drained with very little difficulty, since the surface everywhere slopes gently towards the east, except where the incline is broken by gravel ridges from fifty to one hundred and fifty yards in breadth. Drains could be readily cut through these at intervals sufficiently close to allow the water to flow off freely to the lake.

Valley river.

Of the two largest streams that flow eastward within the district, the Valley River winds in a beautiful sloping valley which doubtless represents an ancient drainage channel in pre-glacial times. Above or west of the gravel ridges that cross this valley is a wide sandy plain, representing an old delta deposit when Lake Agassiz was at its highest stages and when a stream flowed into it through the valley of Short Creek from the west side of the Duck Mountain. The Swan River valley is much wider and is cut down to a much greater extent. The lower part, below what is locally known as the "Coast Ridge," is covered with alluvial deposits of sand or sandy clay, while further west are some rough morainic tracts, among which lie extensive flood plain deposits. In both of these valleys, Indians and Metis have at different times had thriving little villages, the soil being very rich and fertile. On the latter there is now a Metis settlement about a mile or two beyond the northern limit of the present map. Two Indian reserves were formerly occupied on the banks of this river and on them the Indians raised grain and the ordinary root crops. Lately, these Indians have been removed to the vicinity of Fort Pelly for the greater convenience of communication and trade.

Swan river.

Old Indian settlement.

On Valley River there was formerly an Indian settlement in township 25, range 24, west, and now there is a thriving village at the mouth of Short Creek, at the point where the River leaves the Duck Mountain. A good cart-trail runs from Russell on the Manitoba and North-Western Railway to this village, and carts can also pass eastward from it to the Lake Dauphin settlement. Here in the summer of 1887 some good crops of the ordinary grains and roots were being raised.