

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

There is a large body of water, but the river is not navigable owing to the swiftness of the water.

#### FISHERIES.

Split lake has been pretty well cleaned out of fish by the Indians and the Mounted Police. There are lots of good whitefish in Big lake averaging four pounds. You get sturgeon in the Little Churchill all through, some of them weighing as much as forty pounds. At the mouth of the Beaver river, about half way down the Little Churchill, the witness got fish averaging six pounds, and grey trout averaging about four pounds. All the lakes through the country are full of fish, whitefish especially. There are very good whitefish in all the lakes. There is no bad water in that country. At the mouth of the Churchill river you get salmon and sea trout, all of excellent quality. Then you get the porpoise, which is quite an item when you have to keep dogs for the winter, at Churchill.

#### MINERALS.

There are no minerals to be found between Split lake and Churchill. There is nothing in the rocks. There may be something north of Churchill, but the witness had not time to go there. He did not see any evidence of iron or coal between Split lake and Churchill. He never studied the country nearer Lake Winnipeg. From the head waters of Deer river to Churchill there is a silurian limestone.

#### MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Mr. O'Sullivan considered it would be easy to build a railway through the country. The character of the land is all right until you meet the red clay hills, where he left the Great Churchill at the junction of the Little Churchill to get to the headwaters of the Dee river. There are hills rising from 100 to 300 feet above the level of the Great Churchill river which have to be crossed. He did not see any seriously difficult point in getting a good line of railway from Spit Head to Churchill.