

leading from this point, passing by Hash lake to the head of Sakwatamanu river (Eagle river), thence to Whitecourt, at the entrance of the McLeod river, thus working back our way on entirely new ground. In the course of the journey, this trail was found to have many ramifications or secondary blind hunting-trails which gave the opportunity to cover well, in a relatively short time, the large tract of land extending from the Little Smoky river to Christmas creek.

The main one is the Iosegun River and Pass Creek trail, located in the vicinity of the Canadian Northern Railway's location line direct to Grand Prairie. Information gathered from Indian hunters helped us to find these trails. Here, as elsewhere during the journey, many sub-trips of some interest were made. One led from the Little Smoky river, up along the Iosegun to the Atikkamek river; another one from the northeast corner of Hash lake to Bear lake. A third one was made from Shooting Prairie, on the Shooting river, down the Iosegun river to the Atikkamek and fifteen miles up this river, and a fourth—and very important one—from Shooting Prairie,



*Photo J. A. Doucet, 1911.*

PLATE 3.—Young Mixed Forest of Pine and Spruce in Athabaska River Valley, Viewed from River-bank at Crossing.

over the summit to the Athabaska river, at the Canadian Northern Railway crossing. A fifth started from the head of Two Creek, on the south trail, reaching again the upper valley of the Athabaska river.

Many other trips were made, but it is unnecessary to enumerate them all. It was October 31, when the small party reached the Athabaska river, at a point opposite Whitecourt. The snow was then eight inches deep, creeks and small rivers were frozen over and on the Athabaska were drifting quantities of ice-cakes. Having been favoured with a couple of days of milder weather, we were enabled to swim the horses across on November 3. A sub-trip to McLeod lake and Christmas creek completed the examination work on the north side of the Athabaska river on November 11.

In accordance with further instructions received at Whitecourt in regard to the examination of the land lying between the McLeod and Athabaska rivers, the work