

land, the communication to the eastward being through a narrow but deep channel, called the Petit Detroit, between the southern extremity of the peninsula and the eastern end of Aird island. From the Petit Detroit to La Cleche the outline of the coast is irregular, being indented by deep bays and coves, which in some parts are perfectly land-locked by groups of long, low and narrow islands running parallel with the main shore, and affording excellent places of shelter for all classes of vessels under almost any circumstances.

The hills bordering on Spanish river seldom attain a height of over 300 feet, but the banks of the river itself are frequently bold, precipitous and rocky. At the great falls picturesque and imposing ruggedness prevails. A ridge of smoothly polished bare rock rises in rounded knolls, so steep in places as to be inaccessible, obstructing the south-eastern flow of the river and splitting it into two parts, of which one turns a little to the northward of east, while the other is deflected to a precisely opposite course. The latter, after running above a quarter of a mile, is thrown in a beautiful cascade over a precipice thirty feet high, and then turning abruptly to the eastward rushes violently for thirty chains in that direction, falling in a vertical sheet over three successive steps of five feet each, when it is again united to the other division of the stream in a wide pool of nearly still water.

Much of the country for some distance back from the north side of the river is flat or rolling land, and is almost everywhere covered with a luxuriant growth of red and white pine.

The extent and value of the pine forest in this region, the facilities offered by the river for navigation, the water-power to be found on the main stream and all its tributaries, and the capabilities of the soil for raising most of the necessaries of life, all tend to indicate a probability that it is destined to become of commercial importance to the province.

The valley of the Wahnapias river contains many considerable tracts of flat land, much of which is of good quality, bearing hardwood and large white pine in abundance, but a great proportion of the flats are low, wet and swampy.

The Vermillion river is a fine broad stream with deep water and a rapid current, which, flowing generally southwesterly, empties into Vermillion lake, and thence running southerly, joins the east branch of the Spanish river about five miles east of Whitefish lake. The banks of the Vermillion river present a very inviting appearance both as regards soil and timber, the former being a rich alluvial deposit with a subsoil of reddish blue clay, and the latter principally fine and thrifty hardwood. Inland for a considerable distance from its banks the same appearance prevails, white oak, elm, and white ash being abundant.

The river takes its rise near the Height of Land, and unlike most of the streams in this country, is unbroken save by the one lake above spoken of.