

the mountain sides, find a quiet haven on the lower lands, and meandering across the plains, intersect like lacework the broad stretches.

Canada is peculiarly favored in her waterways. Including the great lakes which encircle it and which penetrate it, and the rivers of enormous size and length which permeate it, we have more than one-half of the fresh water of the entire globe. There are more than ten thousand miles of navigable rivers in the North-West—navigable, that is, not merely by canoes but by steamboats. The supplies for all the ports of the Hudson's Bay Company are carried by water from Winnipeg even to points beyond the Rocky Mountains, and within the Arctic Circle. It is possible to go by water from the mouth of the St. Lawrence through the great lakes, and down the Mackenzie to the Arctic Ocean, a trip of more than six thousand miles, of which less than one hundred and fifty miles will necessarily be on land.

The great lakes of the North-West are second in size only to the largest of the great lakes on the international boundary. Great Bear Lake is one hundred and fifty miles in length; Athabasca Lake two hundred and thirty miles long, averaging fourteen miles in width; while the Great Slave Lake is more than three hundred miles long, and has an average width of fifty miles.

Then comes Lake Manitoba one hundred and twenty miles long and twenty-five miles wide; Lake Winnipeg two hundred and forty miles long and fifty miles wide. Lake Winnipegosis is a magnificent sheet of water one hundred and twenty-five miles long, navigable for vessels drawing ten feet. These lakes are all connected, and, through the Nelson River, by winding ways, flow into Hudson's Bay, giving many miles of navigable waters.

This land is full of surprises. On the vast prairie west of Lake Athabasca, stretching away to the horizon, level as a floor, the traveller sees nothing but the boundless, verdant sward. Suddenly, without the slightest warning, he finds himself standing on the edge of a mighty gorge. Seven hundred to a thousand feet below flows a waterway half a mile wide—the noble Peace River. Some day steamers will float on this wonderful crooked waterway. For seven hundred miles from the foot of the Rocky Mountains along this deep and narrow valley, meanders the great stream which is unique among all the rivers in the world.

The Mackenzie River is described by Archbishop Clut as a deeper, wider and grander river than the St. Lawrence, and with its tributaries it furnishes more than twenty-five hundred miles of navigable waters. By using the streams on the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers, one may now travel from New York City to the Arctic Ocean along interior routes, carried nearly all the way by steam. He can travel on the Canadian Pacific Railway to Edmonton, thence about one hundred and fifty miles by wagon to Athabasca Landing, where he can take a steamer for over two hundred miles to the Grand Rapids of the Athabasca River. Then sixty miles of land portage. At Fort McMurray, the foot of the rapids, a steamer runs down the river to Lake Athabasca and into the Slave River, to the second and last obstruction, five rapids close together. Below

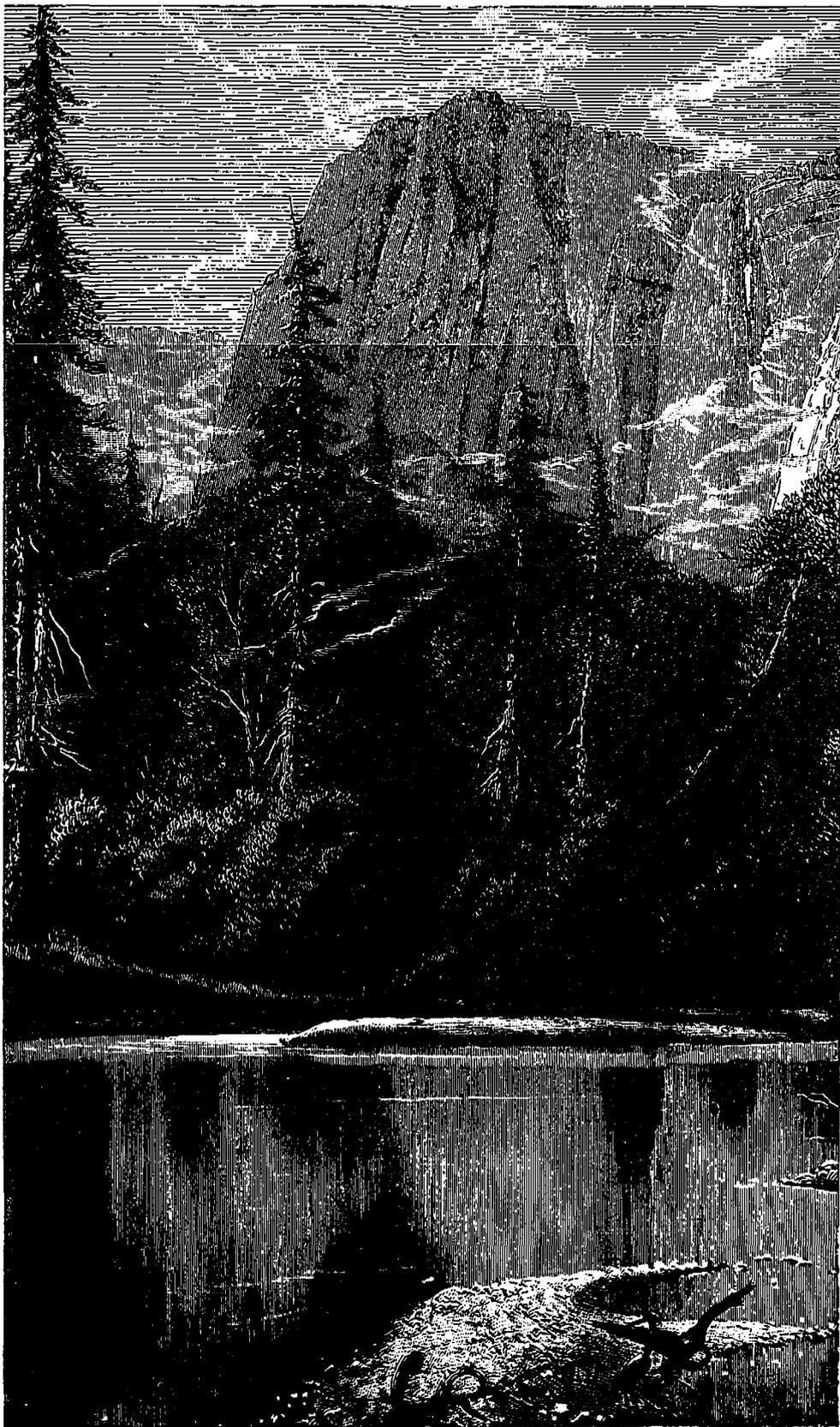
these rapids there is no further interruption of navigation for over one thousand miles down the Great Mackenzie River to the sea.

We give illustrations of a portage, making a portage, and tracking, incident to a canoe journey on some of the smaller streams.

The Red River is navigable from Moorhead, in Minnesota, to where it runs into Lake Winnipeg, a distance of four hundred miles—spreading out into many lakes on its course, somewhat resembling a string of beads. The Assiniboine, which flows into the Red River at Winnipeg, is navigable for over three hundred miles. The Saskatchewan takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains. It twists and turns around and divides into many branches that flow capriciously through the vast plains which they cut in various and frequently opposite directions.

Uniting again it flows into Lake Winnipeg. Its total length is about twelve hundred miles.

The various lakes, rivers and streams give abundant waterway for the "Fertile Belt." This may be said to be within a boundary which may be traced as follows: The Red River valley northward as far as Winnipeg; thence the valley of the Assiniboine River westward to the confluence of the Qu'Appelle with the Assiniboine; thence the valley of the Assiniboine north-westward and across the plains to the confluence of the two branches of the Saskatchewan; then along the valley of the North Saskatchewan westward to Edmonton; thence south-west to Calgary; thence along the base of the Rocky Mountains to the international line. This area of 350,000 square miles is ample enough and fertile enough to easily sustain a population of



IN THE ROCKIES.