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SUPERIOR AND ER.

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Robert Bell, who had for two years been engaged in the Lake Nipigon region. He entered the country by way of the Nipigon River, and proceeded first to make surveys to the N. W., N. & N. E. of Lake Nipigon. The first by the Wabunash river to the N. W. began at the outlet of Wabunash Lake, one mile from Lake Nipigon extending to a point 20 miles in a straight line from Wabunash Bay or 33 by the canoe route. 19 portages were made and 18 lakes passed through; the largest of which was Oval Rock Lake, 4 miles in length.

For 10 miles from Lake Nipigon, the country has a mountainous aspect, the trap hills rising from 2 to 500 feet above the level of the water often presenting perpendicular cliffs. The country along the whole route was generally rocky and of little value for agricultural purposes. The only good soil was on the west and north sides of Wabunash Lake, where the soil is a fine sandy and clayey loam.

The Pikilgouehing River flows into Windigo Bay on the N. side of Lake Nipigon. 34 miles of this stream were followed, but owing to the great bends the river makes, this only made 12 miles in a direct course; at one place, a portage of 60 chains saves 3 miles of river navigation. A sheet of water, 2 miles wide, called Round Lake, terminated the survey in this direction. The country was flat with apparently a good soil. Hills of trap could be seen occasionally from the river, but beyond Round Lake, the country is said to be every where of a level character.

In making the survey from Lake Nipigon to the Albany river, Mr. Bell first made a traverse across the Lake Nipigon from Nipigon House to the mouth of the Ombabika river. This river was followed to its source in Shoal Lake, 25 miles N. E. of the mouth. This lake lies due north and south, and discharges both ways, the stream flowing north to the Albany, the Powitlik River, being nearly as large as the Ombabika. Along the height of land there were 17 miles of uninterrupted canoe navigation. Shoal Lake is about 300 feet above Lake Nipigon or about 1200 above the sea. 12 other lakes were passed through on the Ombabika River, before reaching Shoal Lake, the largest of which is 4 miles across. The Powitlik 6 miles from Shoal Lake, joins the Kapikotongwa, which was descended 21 miles; then turning up a small branch to the west called the Mokohe and crossing the water shed, the canoe route north westward was followed and the Zho-Schiquay descended to the Ogoké, another and one of the largest branches of the Albany. The Ogoké was examined for 10 miles. It averaged 500 feet in breadth, with large lagoons and marshes on each side, and was in the middle 50 or 60 feet deep. The Indians said it maintained the same character, for a long distance above and below, but further down, it is said to spread out to a great width and become very shallow. Leaving the Ogoké river by French Channel, in less than two miles the height of land was crossed separating it from the Kaggina-gami, and following this northward, the Albany was reached at Lake Abazotikitchewan, 83 miles in a straight line N. 15° E. from the mouth of the Ombabika. The distance by the canoe route was 142 miles in which 20 portages had to be made. The country was generally level, the surface rocky or swampy, with some small tracts of good land. Some sections are hilly, the

surface being more broken in approaching Lake Nipigon on one side, and the Albany on the other, but the highest points were only about 50 or 60 feet above the general level. From Lake Abazotikitchewan, the course of the Albany is S. E. 8 miles to Lake Makokebatan. There are 7 rapids but no portages in this section. The river varies in width from 10 or 12 chains at the rapids to half a mile and more in the smooth places between them. From Makokebatan Lake, 56 miles to Martin's Falls, the course is N. 7° E. The lake is 16 miles long and 14 broad and the country very low and level. The river flows from the eastern extremity by 2 channels, which unite again 20 miles down at Moosewake Lake. From this lake to Martin's Falls the river is full of islands and rapids. There are 15 portages between Makokebatan Lake and Martin's Falls. The surface of the country is slightly undulating and the soil seems in many places to be good. Between Abazotikitchewan Lake and Martin's Falls, 12 rivers and large brooks enter the Albany.

From journals kept by Mr. McKay, in charge of the Hudson's Bay Co's. Post, at Martin's Falls, and his predecessors for 40 years, it appears that the river is open between this point and James Bay, 6 months in the year. Hay, turnips and potatoes are successfully cultivated, and cattle thrive well.

Below Martin's Falls, which is only a rapid with a descent of 12 or 15 feet, down which causes run easily, the river becomes more uniform in breadth, depth and velocity of current. For 12 miles to the junction of the Kenogami, it is from 20 to 30 chains wide, averaging 11 feet in depth, and the mean velocity 3 miles an hour. It is said to maintain a similar character all the way to its mouth. Except at very low water, it would seem to be navigable by powerful steamers with shallow draft of water, all the way up to Martin's Falls, a distance of 250 miles. All the way from the Falls to the Forks, at the junction of the Kenogami, the river is flanked by steep banks increasing, as the river is descended, from 40 to 90 feet. These steep banks drain a narrow strip of land on either side, but beyond great swamps appear to extend on all sides. Between the Falls and the Forks, the Albany receives 19 rivers and large brooks. Some loose fragments of a bright bituminous coal were found on an island in the river. At the Forks, the Albany was left and the Kenogami river ascended. As far as Mamattawa, 60 miles up the river, the upward course is a little east of south. The river is 20 chains wide, generally shallow, with a slack current, the banks low, and country level. Two large tributaries from the east join the Kenogami, at Mamattawa. From this point the river has a nearly straight course S. 59° W. for 23 miles to the junction of the Bagutchewan, and thence S. 60° W. for 16 miles to Pembina Island. From this point the party returned by way of Long Lake and Pic Island to Lake Superior.

COUNTRY BETWEEN LAKE ST. JOHN AND LAKE MISTASSINI.

Mr. Walter McOuat to whom this survey was instructed, left Lake St. John on the 13th of July, and ascended the Mistassini river for 106 miles, to point N. 18° W. from its mouth and 80 miles distant in a straight line. Here the river was left on the west side, and the lake was struck at Cabistach-