

raising as that nearer the Peace river.' On both sides of Lesser Slave lake the country is heavily wooded, much of the south side near the lake being swampy, but judging from its appearance from the lake and from the reports of those who have travelled on the north side of the lake there is much good land there, well-drained and sloping towards the lake. West of the lake, there is a considerable quantity of fine prairie land suitable for agriculture and a great deal of pasture and hay land, so that in the not distant future the acreage under cultivation will be very much larger than it is at present.

Travelling northwest, the country between Lesser Slave lake and the Heart river rises slightly and is clothed with aspen poplar. The soil is good, the forest easily cleared and the few damp spots now to be seen would disappear with the forest. A few spots have been cleared by fire and here prairie plants have established themselves. For ten or twelve miles before Cyprés creek is reached the country was not so good. There are many bogs and swamps and nearly everywhere spruce was mixed with the poplar denoting a damper soil. The country is nearly level, but there are a few low ridges on which Jack pine grows. Altogether, the soil is poorer and the proportion of arable land smaller than between Lesser Slave lake and Heart river and for a few miles beyond that stream. Along the trail, there is considerable prairie which begins about twenty-five miles from Peace river landing. This prairie is not very extensive, and all the open land has already been taken up by half-breeds. Oats have been planted in several places and the more hardy garden vegetables. Most of the settlers have a good many cattle about them, but not many horses. Before reaching the prairie, the country is similar to that beyond Cyprés creek, the soil fairly good but the need of drainage is everywhere apparent. We camped on the northern edge of the prairie, about eighteen miles from Peace River Landing and during the night of June 7-8 there was a severe frost, ice, half an inch thick forming on a pail of water covered by a tight lid. The natural vegetation was uninjured, however.

Country between Lesser Slave lake and Peace river.

#### THE LOWER PEACE RIVER.

Having learned that the small steamer owned by the Roman Catholic mission was to go down to Vermilion, passage was secured on this boat, and I left Peace River Landing on June 11th, reaching Vermilion on the 13th. For about fifteen miles below Peace River Landing the left side of the river valley has been denuded of forest by fire, but the banks are so steep that there is little land suitable for culti-