

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RUPERT RIVER.

As the journey from Lake Mistassini to Rupert House was hurried, and consequently large areas of country were passed over in a short space of time, I will, in the following, give extracts from my daily journal *en route*:—

August 22nd.—Mr. Macoun and myself left the Hudson Bay post at Mistassini at 4 p.m., in a large canoe, with ten men paddling, and camped for the night at the "Big Narrows," eighteen miles from the post.

August 23rd.—Started at daybreak, and crossed the lake to the west side; proceeded up the shore to the Portage Bay, distant ten miles from the outlet of the river. Here, passing over a low, rocky ridge, by a portage two hundred yards long, we entered the Rupert River, and descended it a distance of ten miles, in a course of N. 16° W., to a short portage, crossing a long point, made to avoid heavy rapids in the river. Camped on the portage.

The outlet of Lake Mistassini is about one hundred yards wide. Immediately below this the river spreads out, and forms numerous channels between the islands with which it is covered. The river is so covered, and has a breadth varying from one-quarter to two miles, as far as the last portage. The surrounding country is almost flat, with low, rounded hills, never exceeding fifty feet elevation above the level of the river. The timber is principally black spruce and white birch, with poplar, tamarac and banksian pine; all of small size, never having a diameter exceeding six inches, three feet from the ground. Timber burnt near the portages.

August 24th.—Continued down the river, now narrowing to a breadth varying from one hundred yards to one mile, having a swift current, with several small rapids which are passed by portages in ascending the river. The river continues full of small rocky islands. Distance travelled to-day thirty miles in a general northerly course. The country passed is not so flat as yesterday, some hills rising from seventy-five to one hundred feet above the river. The prevailing timber is black spruce, birch, banksian pine and tamarac, all of small size.

The greater part of the south-west side has been burnt, and is covered with a second-growth of white birch. The north-east shore is unburnt, and black spruce predominates.

Heavy gale from the west, with showers of rain, all day, making it very cold and disagreeable to travel.

25th.—Continued down the river eleven miles to Lake Miskittenow, through the east end of which the river flows.