

Just as the shades of night began to fall the lights of The Pas became discernible. At 10.30 our little steamer docked at its pier in the mouth of the Opasquia river. Faces of friends appeared on the gang-way and in a few minutes we found ourselves comfortably settled in the Opasquia hotel where our mail and baggage awaited us.

Thus on Saturday evening of the 27th of July we completed the trip I had originally in view, though later I was to continue it through to Hudson Bay. After spending Sunday at The Pas Adams took his departure and returned to Edmonton while I remained for a few days to transact certain matters of business. We had been six weeks out from Edmonton or five weeks coming from Fort McMurray to The Pas. This is not fast time by any means but considering the weather and that it was over a strange route it was fair time. At any rate it was as fast as I could manage to keep up with my notes.

The Pas to Norway House.

After an absence of a couple of weeks spent on various business matters at Prince Albert, Edmonton and other points in the agricultural belt, I returned to The Pas on the morning of August 13th to continue my journey through to Hudson Bay. This part was carried out under somewhat altered conditions from the preceding portion. Instead of conducting my own limited expedition I was to accompany as guest, or attache, a larger party making this trip, which had been arranged by J. A. Campbell of The Pas, Commissioner of Northern Manitoba and member of parliament for the federal constituency of Nelson. Its members included Prof. R. C. Wallace of the University of Manitoba, Hon. A. B. Hudson, M.L.A. formerly Attorney-General of Manitoba, Dr. S. M. Fraser, medical health officer of Manitoba, and H. Symington, Mr. Hudson's law partner. On my first arrival at The Pas Mr. Campbell had outlined his proposed trip and invited me to join. I was glad to avail myself of the opportunity as travelling under such conditions promised to be much more pleasant as well as more economical.

The town of The Pas is now a thriving commercial center and is the distributing point for an extensive territory lying to the north. Its fur trade has always been considerable while in more recent years the mining activity to the north has created an additional stir. It is believed that this town was first established as a trading post by the French in 1759. The value of furs still shipped out from this point amounts to about \$500,000 annually. The Hudson's Bay Company have their headquarters for a large district here, Manager Hugh Conn being in charge, while other commercial concerns are well represented.

Indian agent McDonald kindly offered to transport our party as far as the east end of Cedar lake in his gasoline launch and at the last moment Jimmy Moors, a well-known prospector and merchant of The Pas, joined the party. He proved a most valuable acquisition, bringing along a canoe with Evinrude motor, and taking charge of the commissariat. His never-failing resourcefulness and genial disposition added much to the comforts and pleasures of the trip. McDonald also took an Indian assistant with him.

Leaving The Pas at noon of August 13th the launch was headed into mid-stream and made rapid progress down the winding course of the great Saskatchewan. A side trip was made to visit Moose lake on the shores of which camp was made for the night. The land surrounding the lake is low and flat, to the north rocky and wooded but elsewhere quite open and covered with an exceptionally heavy growth of wild hay. Having just read of the severe droughts in the southern parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan it appeared to us almost criminal to see the thousands of tons of hay and feed wasting here when cattle were perishing in those parts.

Next day we retraced our way to the Saskatchewan river and following it down reached the old Hudson's Bay post and Indian village of Chemahawin