

replaced by others of sand and clay. Deposits of silt and mud have accumulated in places, and these are occasionally cut into by the stream, exposing sections containing roots, stumps of trees and other material imbedded in frozen muck. Beds of peat too are common.

Four miles above Satah river a small stream enters from the west and directly opposite are the first recent signs of human occupation that we have seen since leaving Beaver river. These are fish stages, and low huts built of bark, logs and clay, looking very much like so many dog kennels.

At Satah river the Peel emerges from the high plateau, and enters what is probably the coastal plains of the Mackenzie river. The transition from the one to the other is very abrupt, and the escarpment of the plateau is about 600 feet high. The northern face of this escarpment, where the Peel river cuts through it, forms a semi-circle which is about ten miles across the base, and the stream after issuing from it skirts along the base of the western arm of the arc. This side of the escarpment has a maximum elevation of one thousand feet above the river, while on the east side this level decreases gradually, until about ten miles away it is only four hundred feet. Enclosed in this arc is a level lake country, underlaid by soft sandstones, and dotted everywhere with lakes of all sizes up to five miles in length. Satah river, which is a sluggish stream about 120 feet wide, drains this lake country, entering the Peel as it emerges from the plateau.

Directly west of Satah river, and at a distance of about twenty-five miles is a range of high snow-covered peaks which McConnel calls the main range of the Rockies. The range gradually decreases in height to the south, becoming the low range that crosses the Peel at the upper cañon. The plateau extends up to the base of this range, the evenness of its surface being broken by several low north and south ridges lying parallel with the range of mountains.

Below Satah river the stream makes a wide bend to the west, to avoid which a short cut across country is made in the winter time. From here to Fort McPherson is fifty-three miles, during which distance the stream flows with an even current of about two miles an hour between low banks of clay. Bluffs of sandstone occur here and there. Few islands interrupt the course of the stream, and the average width is about six hundred yards. The stream skirts along the eastern face of the plateau escarpment, sometimes cutting through the projecting points or outliers of it. Until as we approach the Fort, it gradually leaves it altogether never to touch it again.

Five streams join the Peel in this section, two from the east and three from the west; the largest of these, which is also the largest