

Lying to the north-west of this lake, there is an area of level or very gently sloping country, which is now covered by extensive natural meadows, separated by groves of poplar and birch, as well as occasional forests of spruce and tamarac. This country is as yet in its native beauty, being entirely untouched, either by the woodman's axe or the plough of the farmer; but the time cannot be far distant when a thriving agricultural population will occupy the district, reaping from the fertile soil bountiful and continuous harvests.

In the early part of the past summer, the writer made a short journey on foot into this country, from the shore of the lake, in order to determine the question of the existence or non-existence of beds of gypsum in the vicinity.

Starting from the north-west corner of the Indian Reserve at present held by the Saskatchewan Band of Saulteaux Indians, we travelled in a general north-westerly direction for five miles, till we reached a rounded gravel ridge, rising from fifteen to twenty feet above the general level of the country to the north-west of it, and along the foot of which, on the alluvial plain, are scattered numbers of rounded, weather-worn, gneissoid erratics. This ridge represents a beach of the extended Lake Winnipeg, called by Mr. Warren Upham Lake Agassiz, when it covered the whole of this area, and when the surrounding fertile alluvial deposits were being laid down near its gradually receding shore. The height of this ridge, as shown by aneroids read simultaneously on it and on the lake, is about 840 feet, being fifty feet above Lake St. Martin, and thirty feet above Lake Manitoba. Its chief interest, however, did not centre in the fact that it had once represented a lake-shore line, for these shore-lines are very commonly to be met with in all this apparently level Manitoba plain, but that in little holes and caves in it were to be seen small exposures of soft, compact, snow-white gypsum.

Following the ridge, still in a north-westerly direction, for a mile, the surface becomes very rugged and irregular, being broken by deep pits with steeply sloping sides. In