

OTAUWAN RIVER DISTRICT

This district is bounded on the north and east by the south and west limits of the great Lesser Slave River muskegs, on the south approximately by township tier 60, on the west by the eastern limit of the Swan Hills plateau proper and the Prairie Creek divide.

This district comprises the northeastern foot hills of the Swan Hills. The elevation, therefore, increases towards the southwest. The Otauwan river drains almost the entire district. An important branch of the Southey drains a small poplar area to the southeast, and Jackpine and Meetsu creeks on the north.



Photo F. McVickar, 1911

PLATE 10. Boulder clay Ridge, Otauwan Trail.

The Otauwan River valley is steep and broken, being only four miles wide and from 500 to 1,000 feet deep. Between its branches are high ridges of boulder-clay, gravel or sand. No agricultural land occurs within the boundaries of this district.

Jack pine creek has its origin in a large basin surrounded by high hills. The basin is floored with hummocks of boulder-clay separated by muskegs.

Three main types of timber are to be found in this district:-

1. Poplar.
2. Spruce.
3. Pine.

Poplar country bounds this district to the north and east. The hummocks in the head-waters country of Jack Pine creek (Brown Valley), are clothed with reproduction to pole stuff of poplar, birch and jack pine. Underneath this is good reproduction of white spruce. There are some twenty three square miles of this type. North of the big brûlé of 1910 from Meetsu creek to the Otauwan river is an area of some twenty four square miles of mature poplar country composed of trees eight to forty inches in diameter with good spruce reproduction underneath. East of the Otauwan river surrounding the timber ridge is another area of forty five square miles of poplar reproduction ten to fifteen years of age, with scattered pole stuff throughout, remnants of a former fire.

The inside boundary of these poplar areas is formed by the great brûlé caused by the fire of 1910, which came from the Swan River valley. This fire entered the district at Florida lake near the centre of the west side of township 71, range 5, west

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