

portage which crosses the isthmus which joins the large central presqu'ile to the main shore, and measuring across said portage, we continued our survey to the extreme north-eastern end of the lake.

Here, a river, about a chain and a half in width, comes in from the east, which I called Isroff river, for a hunter named Isroff, an old servant of the Hudson Bay Company, has built a house and shed and made a clearing of a couple of acres of land close by its mouth.

Some fine timber, chiefly grey spruce, is seen all along here; I saw some that measured over seven feet in circumference at four feet from the ground.

Following back along the southern shore of the lake, the land is rough and poor for the first four miles, and looking up the valley south-eastward, the country is not very inviting, but on approaching the Metabetchouan portage, there is a decided change.

No better land can be found in any part of the Dominion than that on either side of said portage, and I may say that the whole area between lake Waswanipy and lake Paketamika is equally good.

A rich blueish grey, clay soil, covered with from six inches to a foot of yellow loam or vegetable mould, was seen on every side.

The timber here is large and of exceedingly tall growth; spruce trees measuring about two feet in diameter generally run from 75 to 80 feet in height.

The portage is a little over a mile and a quarter in length and overcomes rapids and cascades that give a total fall of 55 feet.

Here, an excellent water power can be had, for the banks on either side of the stream are high and a dam placed anywhere below the head of the portage could easily flood the waters back to above the level of lake Paketamika and thus have that great body of water as a reservoir to draw from.

The elevation of lake Waswanipy is 630 feet above sea level and that of Paketamika 744; a head of 70 feet may be had here, which, with the minimum flow of water of about 200 feet per second, would give over 1,500 horse power.

Lake Paketamika is a fine sheet of water, measuring seventeen miles in length by about four miles in width in the widest part.