

The natives call this section Burnt Hills. There is no settlement here but the country is adapted to farming. All the country between Canoe River and Canoe Lake and the Beaver River is muskeg, and though it might be drained it is not in its present state fit for farming.

I explored to the north-west of Canoe Lake towards Little Buffalo Lake pretty well but could not locate any considerable area of land. Muskeg and swamp were everywhere and no good timber. The shore of Little Buffalo Lake is higher but it is only a narrow strip along the shore. At Big Buffalo Lake the land is better with some cultivated stretches though there is considerable swamp and low ground. At Buffalo River there is quite a large settlement of Chipewyans. They grow quite a little barley and some oats. The Chipewyans and some half-breeds seem not to care for flour when left alone and so they grow barley in preference to any other grain. It is easier to cook, being just thrown in soup. The land on the northerly side of Buffalo Lake is good but there are no people living there. The Chipewyans at Buffalo River told me that they never heard of the crop of barley being a failure for the past fifty years.

At the narrows between Little Buffalo Lake and Buffalo Lake there is a tar-sand outcrop. The Indians use it to patch their canoes. The shores of Clear Lake are more inclined to be stony and in the north sandy ridges occur. A few Chipewyans live around this lake but do not attempt to grow any crops. The land between Clear Lake and He a la Crosse Lake is low and swampy. There are fine trout in Clear Lake. Around He a la Crosse Lake game is not so plentiful but it is generally easy to shoot some variety of deer or moose. The natives here say that wolves are very plentiful.

LA LOCHE LAKE SECTION.

Attached hereunder is a plan marked "D" showing the approximate boundaries of what I term "La Loche Lake Section."

This Section shows a distinct improvement on the He a la Crosse Lake Sections. There is much more high land and a considerable quantity of merchantable spruce timber is to be found there. The La Loche River flows through an immense swamp and it is peculiar that though there are numerous and bad rapids the country on both sides is wet and swampy. The junction of the La Loche and White Fish River is about 12 miles from the mouth of the former. I crossed from the La Loche River to the White Fish River near La Loche Lake. It is about the same sort of country as along the La Loche. There is some remarkably fine spruce along the banks of the White Fish River and it extends in not very dense forest across to La Loche Lake, a distance of about eight miles. The swamp through which La Loche River flows, though very wet, produces a large quantity of hay. A winter road has been cut for single horses and flat sleds. The La Loche River is not a good route for canoes and needs considerable clearing of large boulders. La Loche Lake is a fine body of fine fresh water and is well stocked with fish. Wild fowl of every kind abound here. Moose and cariboo are plentiful. The result of Nature's bounteousness, is that the native content with Nature's provision grows notung. He kills the moose for its hide. There is a Roman Catholic Mission near the east end of La Loche Lake, and a priest, Fr. Pinard, in charge. He has a small garden and had a little patch of barley. Both did well. He complains of difficulty in getting seed. As this difficulty had been brought to my notice by several residents of the district covered by my exploration, upon my return to Ottawa I obtained through the kindness of Dr. Saunders, Director of Experimental Farms, a number of packages of seed which I have forwarded to persons who will be likely to make good use of them. On the West side of the Lake about 10 miles away stands the Hudson's Bay Company's Post.

The map shows this post as being at one end of the Portage. It really is six miles from there, south. The Hudson's Bay Company's buildings stand in a large