

Country south
of Peace Coun-
ty prairie.

thirds of which is prairie. This is covered with fine grass, and a little work in clearing out logs when the grass is short in spring would make it easy to run a mower over it. About four miles up this stream it was crossed to the north side, and though there was no trail the route to Swan lake was not difficult. The country passed through and seen from the summits of the hills has been so frequently burnt over that there are few standing trees and the ground is encumbered with fallen logs. Before Swan lake is reached there are several large meadows, and around the west side of the lake there is a strip of open ground about 100 yards wide on which the grasses and vetches were shoulder high. Swan lake is said to teem with suckers, but no other kinds of fish are caught there.

Swan lake.

Around the south end of Swan lake and ordering the creeks which run through the flat there are perhaps a thousand acres of magnificent hay-land covered with grasses and carices breast high, *Calamagrostis Canadensis* (Blue joint) predominating. This was the finest meadow seen during the summer except that described on MacAllister creek. Swan lake would be an ideal place for wintering stock. It was my intention to ascend the creek to the height of land and then to descend Beaver Lodge creek to Grande prairie, but that route was found to be blocked by fallen timber, and about five miles east of Swan lake we turned north along a small creek and ascended to the plateau, along the edge of which a faint trail led towards the east. As we progressed this trail became better, and after eight or ten miles it could have been followed by anyone. These trails are so apt to become blocked at any time that a guide who knows the country on either side should be procured when this is possible.

The distance from Swan lake to Grande prairie in a straight line is about thirty-five miles—by the trail nearly fifty. The trail for the whole distance follows ridges when this is possible. These are separated by low ground, marshes or bogs, which must be crossed. The soil on the ridges is generally poor. Now and then a view could be obtained from the top of a ridge, and the character of the country to the north and south was the same as that passed through. It has nearly all been burnt over at different periods, and very little standing timber of any kind was noted. Very little good land was seen, and that always in small patches.

A little later, in going from Grande prairie to Spirit river, the circuit of the plateau which lies north of the Grande prairie was completed. The elevation of the plateau has been estimated to be 2,500 feet and its area about 800 square miles. Its elevation alone would