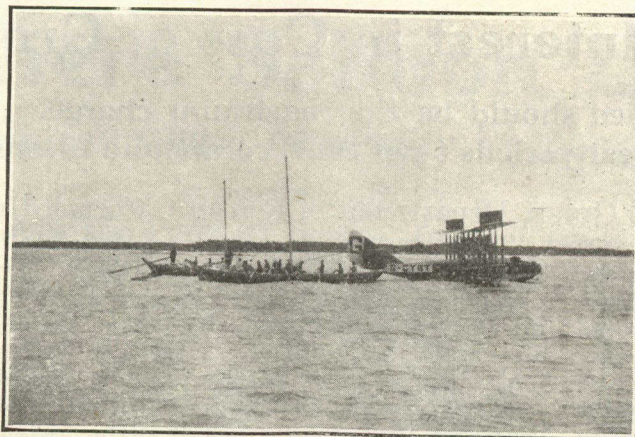


Where 1722 meets 1922. A unique photograph taken on Playgreen Lake, Manitoba. Two of the famous York boats, used for two centuries or more as the standard transport method of Canada's northern lakes are seen on their way from Norway House to Oxford House.



In midlake they have encountered an F.3 flying boat at anchor and the crews are making a careful inspection of the aerial monitor. The Air Board flying service has thoroughly established its value in Manitoba's forest protection system.

Reminiscences of Norway House

One of the greatest old-time posts of the Hudson's Bay Company is still important station

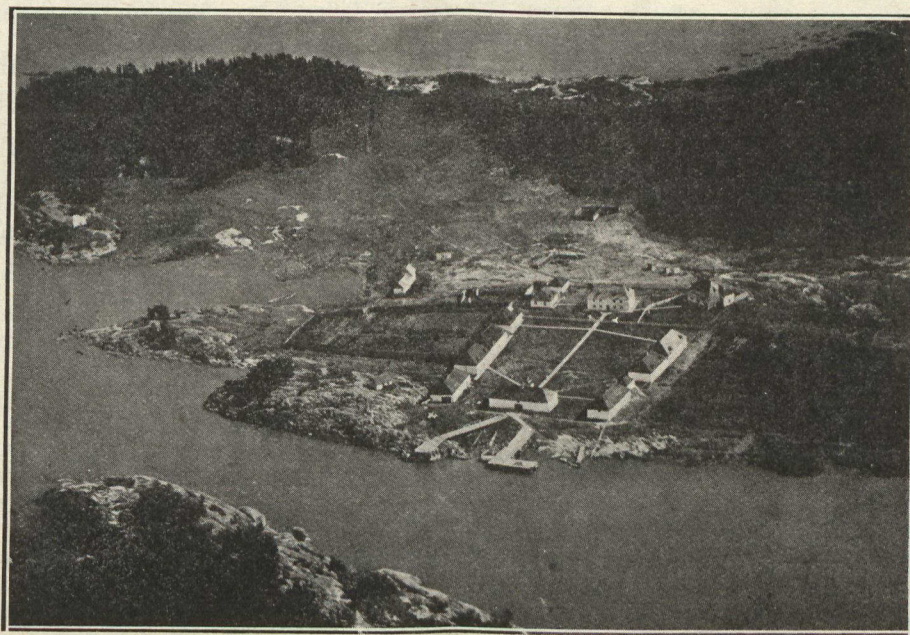
By JAMES LAWLER, Dominion Forestry Branch, Ottawa.

NORWAY HOUSE, in addition to being one of the oldest establishments of the Hudson's Bay Company, is much more than a big trading-post. It was for over a hundred years one of the great entre-pôts or, transfer points of the company. Norway House is situated on the shore of Playgreen lake, a body of water formed by the expansion of the Nelson river just after it leaves lake Winnipeg on its journey to Hudson Bay. It is roughly in the centre of a long triangle of which the angles are York Factory on Hudson Bay, Winnipeg (Fort Garry) and Edmonton. It is, in round figures three hundred miles from Hudson Bay, three hundred from Fort Garry and five hundred and fifty from Edmonton.

From Norway House the Nelson and Hayes rivers stretch northeasterly to Hudson Bay, the great Saskatchewan river gives access across the northern line of the prairies to the foot-hills of the Rocky mountains, and lake Winnipeg and the Red river make a highway to Fort Garry and the Pembina country. Norway House was thus at the main crossroads of the

whole West and the wealth and commerce of half a continent annually passed through the gates. In the days when the goods for the H. B. Co's trade came in through York Factory at the mouth of the Nelson river, it was not the custom to send the brigades of York boats (big freight skiffs, forty feet long) from York Factory clear

through to Edmonton, or from Edmonton to York Factory. The brigade from the sea went as far as Norway House, where it met the brigades from Edmonton and Fort Garry. The brigades from the south and west turned over their bales of furs to the men from the sea-coast and returned to the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine trading-posts laden with manufactured goods from Great Britain. Hundreds of men met on the level shore of



An aerial photograph of the famous Norway House, Lake Winnipeg, once the administrative headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company in the early days of Canada, now used as a district station of the Dominion Forestry Branch. See accompanying sketch.

Playgreen lake in front of the fort and the meeting of the brigades was a time of feasting, fighting, and contests of strength and endurance. The advent of railways has changed trade routes but Norway House still remains one of the important posts of the company.