

the latter, and proceeded along the west shore to the outlet of the Rupert River, down which he voyaged to the James Bay.

The following is a translation of the account given by Père Albanel in the "Relations of the Jesuits" :—

"June 18. We entered Great Lake Mistassini, which is so large that it takes twenty days of fine weather to make the tour. This lake takes its name from the rocks of prodigious size with which it is filled. It has a number of very beautiful islands, ducks and fish of all kinds, moose, bears, cariboo, porcupine and beavers are here found in great abundance. We had already made six leagues to the traverse of the islands which cut the lake in two, when I perceived something like an eminence of land at such a distance that the eye could just reach it. I demanded of our people if it were near the point where we must go. 'Keep quiet,' said our guide, 'and do not look there, if you do not wish to perish.' The Indians of these parts believe that whoever wishes to cross the lake must carefully guard from looking at the route, especially at the place to which they must cross, a single glance, they say, will cause the rising of the waters and great tempests, which will surely upset them."

This is the whole of the description given by Père Albanel in connection with Lake Mistassini, but he must have made a rough map of the route followed, as we find on a map of Canada compiled by Père Laure in 1720, a plan of Mistassini with the route followed by Albanel on it. The statement that it took twenty days of fine weather to make the circuit of the lake, has formed the base on which all the extravagant estimates of the size of the lake have been built.

The arguments used being in about this style : If it takes twenty days to go round the lake, ten days would be required to go from end to end, and as an Indian can paddle from three to four miles per hour, and the paddling time of a summer's day would average from twelve to fifteen hours, therefore the lake must be from three hundred and sixty to six hundred miles long.

Unfortunately, like other estimates based on what might or could be, this falls to the ground, because the Indian, although he *can* paddle from three to four miles an hour, finds it too hard work when he is in no particular hurry, and also, that, although he may travel from twelve