

could drive a mowing machine, the trees are so far apart. One would think they had been planted there.

Witness had never been, in the country south of Lake Athabaska, but as far as he could see it looked to be well timbered. He had been east of Lake Athabaska as far as Fort a la Corne. All along the river there is good timber, down the Great Slave river.

On the lower levels of the Athabaska, clean through to Athabaska lake, there is heavy timber all the way along. Witness does not know what is behind the timber belt, but believes it is pretty muskeggy. That is what the Indians told him. He had been up the river by boat every year for eight years. Taking the country as a whole, there is quite a lot of marketable timber. All the rivers and lakes could produce good timber. There are millions of cords of spruce for pulp wood.

There is a beautiful water-power on the Peace river, and there are ninety miles of rapids on the Athabaska from Fort McMurray to Pelican portage. There is all the water-power that could be desired—tremendous falls.

#### FISHERIES, GAME AND FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

Along the Peace river from Vermilion until you get to Lake Athabaska there are low rocky shores without timber, but the waters are full of fish. Immense quantities are taken every year. There are whitefish, greyling, pike and many other kinds, but no sturgeon as far as the witness knew. At the east end of Lake Athabaska there are Indians. The Indians all through this country make their living principally by hunting and fishing. The principal varieties of fish are trout and whitefish. Witness had seen trout weighing twenty pounds. These lakes are full of fish. Twenty-eight, thirty and forty pounds are common weights for trout. That is just the 'whitefish trout.' They have a salmon trout, a whitefish trout and a rainbow trout up in the mountains. There is untold wealth in those lakes. In the northern waters they have whitefish, herring and trout. There is nothing done commercially in the matter of fishing. The Hudson Bay Company do not feed the fish to the dogs. Witness thought that if there were more fish taken out of the lakes it would be better for the fish. The fish got better after a quantity was taken out. The Indians dry some of them. They can smoke a fifty pound fish and dry it. The Indian will cut up his fish in the summer time and dry it.

The reindeer go as far north as latitude 60. They have been coming to Lake Athabaska for years. They did not come last year, and there was starvation among the Indians there, but that is the first time in the remembrance of the oldest Indian in that locality that they did not come that far. They come in countless thousands. The Indians stand in the lodge doors and shoot them as they run around. The animals have not any fear.

There is also moose in that country and musk ox.

The country which lies in between the Peace river and the south shore of the Great Slave lake, Mr. Conroy had been told by the Indians and half breeds, is a buffalo country. He had not been more than three or four miles back in it himself. He was told that there is a bunch of wood buffalo in there yet. It would take a man on horseback five days to cross that prairie.

The Indians and half-breeds told Mr. Conroy that the country between Great Slave river and Hay river is covered with buffalo grass, excepting a little timber that grows in a fringe around Great Slave lake. He had information from Indians living in that country that it is an open country covered with prairie grass.

North of Great Slave lake there is a bunch of buffalo that have been there, the Indians say, for fifty or sixty years. The Indians claim that buffalo grass grows in there clean up to the Yellow Knife river. Asked if the buffalo were increasing, Mr. Conway replied that he thought not. The wolves have been very bad for the last five or