

From Seven Islands to the Allagash the river is in places very rocky and turbulent; there are two very dangerous rapids and many smaller ones. Yet in spite of these obstacles heavy tow-boats, laden with horses, hay and lumbermen's supplies ascend the stream, when the water is at medium height, to the timber tracts above. Heavy horses used to wading over the roughest river bottom supply the motive power, and experienced hands keep the boats in the proper channel. The names of the tributary streams in common use in this section are in some cases of Indian origin, as Chemquassabamticook. In other instances they have been given by the lumbermen and are, as usual in such cases, mostly descriptive — Big Black River and Little Black River are examples. Lac de L'Est, at the source of the Chemquassabamticook, teems with mammoth trout and touladi.

About 135 miles from its source and 315 from the sea, the St. John receives its first large tributary, the Allagash, the volume of whose waters, is perhaps two thirds that of the main river itself. The Allagash has a drainage area of about 1,450 square miles. Of late years the course of nature has been somewhat interfered with as regards this stream, to the advantage of the Penobscot and to the disadvantage of the St. John. In explanation it may be stated that a party of American lumbermen, many years ago, built a dam below the outlet of Chamberlain Lake, by means of which and a canal connecting the lake with Webster Brook, a vast body of water was turned into the east branch of the Penobscot, which would otherwise have found its way into the St. John. A dam was also built by the same agency below Churchill Lake, (see map) which stemmed the natural course of an