

THE NARROWS.

This district is bounded on the north and west by the limit of survey, on the east by Martin mountain district, and on the south by Lesser Slave lake. Low ridges of boulder-clay lie immediately behind the lake and extend back from five to fifteen miles. These ridges run from northeast to southwest. Between them are the branches of two creeks, the East and West Narrows creeks. These drain a large area of height-of-land and muskeg country lying behind the shore ridges.

There is no agricultural land in this district, except for a narrow strip of willow lands one-half mile to one mile, and hay meadows along the shore, and about a square mile of hay meadow at the forks of West Narrows creek about five miles from its mouth. The soil of the ridges is gravel or sand. Muskegs, as usual, are underlain by boulder clay, which also appears as ridges in the height-of-land country.

Three main types occur in this district:

1. Poplar.
2. Height-of-land type.
3. Muskeg.

The poplar is confined to the low sandy ridges between the creeks. It is interspersed with numerous willow bottoms or small muskegs.

The poplar here has in mixture lodgepole pine and spruce up to eight per cent. The latter species fringe the sloughs and muskegs, but nowhere occur in any quantity. There are about 160 square miles of this country in all.

The height-of-land country is an extension of the Wabiskaw country which, sweeping around the west end of Martin mountain in a belt about four miles wide, reaches the lake shore just west of Martin creek.

The muskeg country lies behind the ridges mentioned before. A narrow burnt strip some three miles wide extends southwest twelve miles down the east branch of West Narrows creek from the main muskeg. Of the main tract, some 100 square miles of the eastern half is burnt. This burn extends far into the north beyond the patch examined.

The western side of this district is bounded by unburnt muskeg, which probably reaches the lake shore about fifteen miles west of the Narrows.

Merchantable timber is very scarce, three small areas comprising the whole in this district. Of these, two are along the lake shore, and the third one, on the ridge between East and West Narrows creek, about five miles back from the lake, is situated near section 20, township 26, range 8, west of the 5th meridian.

The shore areas are to be found about six miles east of The Narrows. They occur as narrow strips along the lake shore, forming a fringe to semi-muskeg behind. There are two small tracts, some 55 acres in all, containing 220,000 feet, board measure, or 1,000 feet, board measure, per acre. This timber is small spruce mixed with tamarack just above tie size. The inland tract in section 20, township 26, range 8, west of the 5th meridian, is also small stuff, but heavier than that along the lake shore. It will run 6,000 feet, board measure, per acre. There are about 250 acres in all, or 1,500,000 feet, board measure.

TABLE STATEMENT OF TIMBER.

Type.	Area.	AVERAGE PER ACRE.			TOTALS FOR DISTRICT.		
		Ties.		Timber.	Ties.		Timber.
		Pieces.	Cords.	Ft. B. M.	Pieces.	Cords.	Ft. B. M.
Poplar	Acres, 102,000	.....	7.2	.....	.....	734,400	.....
Spruce	250	.....	.....	6,000	.....	.....	1,500,000
Spruce and Tamarack ..	55	.....	.....	4,000	.....	.....	220,000
						734,400	1,720,000