

The valley here is incised to a depth of sixty feet in the plateau, and the bed-rock is only rarely exposed where the water cuts into the banks of the valley. The adjoining country is thickly wooded with spruce and tamarack and some birch, and the prevailing feature is the typical northern muskeg.

HUNGRY CREEK.

The only stream of any consequence entering below the Little Wind river is Hungry creek. This enters from the west at a point twenty-five miles above the Peel river. It debouches by several channels over a flood plain a quarter of a mile wide. Its bed is filled with gravel bars, and its banks are low and composed of clay and gravel. It rises in a large lake about fifteen miles up, and flows from this with an easy grade through the low rolling country. Its water has a brownish colour suggesting its origin in muskeg lakes.

During the autumn and winter of 1898 Hungry creek was explored and prospected by some prospectors on their way to the Klondike. They are said to have found hot mineral springs on one of the small tributaries which join it from the south. They also report the finding of colours of coarse gold on the stream. Sufficient time, however, was not allowed for us to verify either of these reports.

Mount Deception, 1,400 hundred feet in height, stands in the angle between Hungry creek and the Wind river.

Below Hungry creek, the Wind river flows with a slightly accelerated current in the same wide valley. To the east is a level wooded country, probably muskeg, with numerous small lakes on its surface; while to the west is a rolling country which gradually becomes more mountainous farther westward.

As it approaches the Peel river, the valley of the Wind becomes narrower, and the stream is more often confined to one channel. Cut banks appear on either side. These at first consist essentially of clay and gravel, but underlying them farther on are beds of lignite associated with clay and soft sandstone.

Within two miles of the Peel river the valley takes on a cañon-like appearance, bounded on either side by steep walls of sandstone or shales a hundred feet high, and the water rushes between these at a greatly increased speed, so that when it joins the Peel in the cañon, it cuts almost directly across that stream to the opposite wall of rock.