

Manouan River Beyond this fall the river narrows, becoming rapid, and continues so for eight miles, while the surrounding hills reach elevations from six to eight hundred feet above its level, and form a ridge extending from north-east to south-west. The river then flows with a slow uniform current for ten miles, course N. 10° E. through a country covered by low rounded hills, lying apparently in ridges, having a north-and-south direction. Beyond this the river spreads out, becoming very rapid and shallow for a distance of three miles. Here we left it, and proceeded by a portage route for nineteen miles, course north, through several small lakes and brooks to avoid a long bend in the river full of rapids and impracticable for canoe travel.

The river was again reached about one mile below Lake Manouan, and continuing up it we entered that lake October 3rd.

Lake Manouan. On arriving at Lake Manouan we passed around the north side, making a time survey of the lake, which was completed on the 8th.

This is another very irregular lake, being about twenty-two miles long from east to west, with several large deep bays on either side running north and south. Over most of its area it is studded with many islands, both great and small. The country around the lake is almost flat, being broken by ridges of hills only to the south and west. These rise not more than 300 feet above the lake, but have the appearance of high mountains from their contrast with the general flatness of the surrounding country. About one-half of the timber is destroyed by fire; what remains consists of white and black spruce, balsam-spruce and white birch, few trees exceeding eight inches in diameter at three feet from the ground.

Peribonka River. We awaited the arrival of Mr. Bignell on Lake Manouan until the 14th, when, fearing that we would be frozen in before reaching the Peribonka River, we started by a portage-route from the west side of Lake Manouan, and passed through several small lakes connected by a small brook flowing into a branch of the Peribonka about twelve miles from Lake Manouan. On reaching this branch we descended it about sixteen miles, reaching the main river one-half mile below Lake Onistagan; general course, south-west. This lake is several miles long by two miles broad. Crossing it on the 16th, we continued up the Peribonka River, and reached a stream from the west, which enters the river about two miles below the main forks, being distant thirty miles from Lake Onistagan; course, a few degrees east of north.

The Peribonka, for the first twenty miles, varies from two to three hundred yards in width, and has little current, but for the remainder of the distance is narrow and full of heavy rapids. The country along the river is similar to that described around Lake Manouan. The forests here have also been devastated by fire. What remains of them shows a larger growth of trees than the last mentioned.