

ridges running north to the shore of the lake. Between these ridges are numerous creeks which have their origin in the plateau.

The Swan River valley is the most conspicuous break in the hills. It penetrates deep into the heart of the plateau. West of The Narrows the high land retreats back from the lake, leaving large areas of agricultural land.

The southern edge of the plateau is not so distinct. The high land descends by large steps or benches. Both the summits proper and these terraces are flat areas, comprising muskeg interspersed with gravel or boulder-clay ridges. This gradually changes to rolling country to the southeast, until agricultural land is found at Deep Creek. More to the west, however, south of the upper waters of the Freeman river is another high plateau reaching to the Athabaska river.

SOIL.

Agricultural land occurs in patches increasing in size to the west. North of the Athabaska river, east of Mirror Landing, is an area of poplar country interspersed with muskeg. Of the 100 square miles included here, approximately 75 can be farmed.

A narrow strip along the Lesser Slave river from Muskeg creek to Mirror landing, perhaps fifteen square miles in all, is suitable for agriculture. Back of this on either side of the river is muskeg.

A low spur-ridge, one of the eastern extensions of Martin mountain, contains some twenty five square miles of poplar country which is good land. This is situated in the northwest quarter of township 73, range 2, west of the 5th meridian, and the north half of township 73, range 3, west of the 5th meridian.¹ There are some nine square miles of hay meadows and prairie at the eastern end of Lesser Slave lake adjacent to Sawridge. This is very valuable land.

South of Martin mountain, between Muskeg creek and Martin creek, is a tract of poplar or spruce country about forty five square miles in all, which is capable of being farmed when the prairie land is all taken up. West of this there is little agricultural land on the north side of the lake until the western end is reached.

South of the lake, east of The Narrows, the foot-hills of the Swan Hills plateau extend almost to the water's edge, so that with the exception of some ten square miles in the north half of Township 72, Range 6, west of the 5th Dominion meridian, and a few quarter-sections at the mouths of creeks, there is no agricultural land east of the Swan river valley.

Along the Swan river, for about half a mile to one and a half miles on either side, is prairie or semi-prairie. There are some twenty-five square miles of this. The Swan River settlement is situated here. The land is alluvial soil of the richest kind.

West of the Swan river, north of the Swan hills—a large area of country covered with a dense growth of poplar, birch, willow and aspen, most of which when cleared will be good land. Between Swan river and the west end of the lake there are perhaps 360 square miles of this country. However, there is little likelihood of this land being settled until the prairies further west have been filled.

In general it may be said that the soil of the potentially agricultural regions is a loam, either clay or sandy. This is underlain everywhere by boulder-clay. Sand ridges occur in spots. They are evidenced by the appearance of jack pine.

¹ The expressions 'west of the 5th meridian' and 'west of the 5th Dominion meridian,' often used in the bulletin, refer to the meridians used as reference lines in the Dominion surveys. The 5th Dominion meridian coincides almost exactly with the 114th meridian of longitude west of Greenwich. This expression is frequently abbreviated; for instance, Section 5, Township 6, Range 10, west of the 5th meridian, becomes Sec. 5, Tp. 6, Rg. 10, W5M, or even 5-6-10-5.

The country is laid off, in checker-board fashion, in townships, each six miles square. The north and south rows of these are known as ranges, while the east and west row is designated as e.g.: Township 60, (or occasionally as Township 'Tier'). Townships are numbered from the International boundary (Latitude 49 degrees) northward, while the ranges are numbered westward from the meridian next east.