

water and heavy swells occur, the stream though swift is perfectly smooth. The level of floods in the cañon is marked by piles of drift-wood, stranded in bays and sheltered spots, and lies thirty feet above the ordinary level of the water.

About half way through the cañon on the right hand bank a log stake stands to mark the position of two whirlpools, one on either side of the river, which are said to be exceedingly dangerous when the water is high. On the 15th July these whirlpools were only slowly revolving currents and hardly noticeable.

Below the cañon the valley again widens to form a large basin four miles long and a mile and a quarter wide; then gradually contracting again, it turns sharply to the south, and follows a winding course easterly to the Snake river. From the cañon to the Snake river is a distance of about thirty-eight miles, and in this section the stream has a velocity often of eight miles an hour, and seldom less than six. Swinging from one side of the deep valley to the other, it cuts deeply into the soft shales and sandstone rocks, forming steep cut banks, which are constantly dropping fragments of rock into the rushing stream below. These cut banks alternate with points of gravel and boulders, which are sometimes clothed with a forest growth of spruce, poplar and willows.

The plateau to the south is broken by some low ranges of north and south hills, while to the north it is perfectly level, and carries on its surface several muskeg lakes. It is everywhere forested and covered with moss, which is always frozen a few inches below the surface. A few small patches have been burnt, but on account of the wet or frozen condition of the mossy surface these burnt areas never extend inland far from the river bank.

Between the Bonnet Plume and the Snake rivers only a few small streams enter the Peel, drawing their water from the lakes on the surface of the plateau.

SNAKE RIVER.

The Snake river, which is also called the Good Hope river, enters the Peel in the corner of the large elbow that the latter makes. It was originally supposed to be the larger of the two streams, and because its valley is a continuation in almost a straight line of the Peel valley below, it was taken to be the main stream. An estimate of its discharge, however, proves the Peel to be almost four times as large. The figures obtained for the discharge of the Snake river were 6,960 cubic feet per second, a considerably greater volume than the Wind river, and probably also than the Bonnet Plume. The river is supposed to have been explored by Mr. Bell of the Hudson's Bay Com-