

result of fires in times past. Reproduction of the climax type, i.e., spruce, occurs wherever the humus and light conditions allow. Two rotations will see the spruce again dominant, if fire is kept out.

Muskeg occurs only in small patches. The largest is at the southeast corner of the lake. It occupies an area of some five square miles along the water-front. The plateau between Swan creek and the Assinewan river is burnt muskeg. Other small plateaus at the headwaters of the various creeks rising in this district are largely muskeg, all burnt by the great fire described before.

Many patches of valuable spruce timber occur in this district.

Small tracts along Prairie creek will total five million feet in all. This creek is navigable in high water, so that this timber should be fairly accessible.



Photo F. McVickar, 1911.

PLATE 13.—Spruce at Nine-mile Point.

The largest quantity of timber, and that, too, the most accessible, is near Nine-mile point on Lesser Slave lake. There are some five areas of timber here. Three of these are at the mouth of Nine-mile creek. The area nearest the point is situated on an alluvial flat formed by the creek. It is heavy spruce and cottonwood, extending over some 183 acres and running to 20,000 feet, board measure, per acre, or 3,660,000 feet in all. Behind it is an area of a swampy nature, mostly tamarack and