

**THE ST. JOHN RIVER, IN
MAINE, QUEBEC,
AND NEW BRUNSWICK**

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The St. John River, in Maine, Quebec, and New Brunswick by J. W. Bailey

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J. W. BAILEY

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MAINE, QUEBEC,
AND NEW BRUNSWICK**



THE GRAND FALLS OF THE ST. JOHN

THE ST. JOHN RIVER
IN MAINE, QUEBEC, AND NEW
BRUNSWICK

BY
Whitman
J. W. BAILEY

CAMBRIDGE
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THE ST. JOHN RIVER.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

OF the many rivers of Northeastern America, it would be difficult to find one which, in the diversity of its natural features, the facilities afforded for sportsmen, and the interesting history of its colonization, is more worthy of mention than the St. John; and yet this river, viewed in its entirety, has never formed the subject of any published work. Possibly the fact that the area drained by it lies partly in the United States and partly in Canada accounts for this. The patriotic Canadian does not care to eulogize the vast wilderness of Northern Maine, which, if the assertions of provincial geographers are true, was unjustly carved out of New Brunswick by the much abused Ashburton Treaty. The American, on the other hand, is not very eager to expatiate upon the natural resources of a country that he might prefer to possess as a fractional part of his own. Be that as it may, an attempt will be made

in the succeeding pages to give a comparatively full description of the St. John, with all the larger tributaries, commencing at the extreme source in Northwestern Maine, and ending at St. John city, the commercial metropolis of New Brunswick, where the river finally unites its waters with those of the Bay of Fundy.

The principal difficulty to be encountered in a work of this kind is the mass of detail, and the necessity of describing fifty or more different streams in more or less similar terms, without omitting facts that are of interest to the tourist, or stating them in the monotonous phraseology of the ordinary guide-book. Narratives of canoe voyages, stories of the camp, exploits of well-known hunters and fishermen, are but passingly touched upon, the design being rather to state, as concisely as possible, what objects of interest, opportunity for pleasurable "outing," and facilities for sport, await those who wish to visit the regions of Maine, Quebec, and New Brunswick, drained by the St. John, and its more important tributaries.

The plan adopted is to treat the river, first as a whole, and in comparison with other rivers; and then in detail, by sections, each section including some portion of the main river worthy of special notice, or a principal tributary, or group of smaller ones. Finally, there follow a few general remarks on the action of ice and floods, with other

less important physical phenomena, and a brief description of the fisheries.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER RIVERS.

As the Hudson, the Saguenay, and the St. John present more natural attractions than any other rivers of corresponding size between the Atlantic coast and the central plateau of the North American continent, a few words of comparison between them may be appropriate.

The Saguenay, from Chicoutimi to Tadousac, flows through a cañon, flanked by vast Laurentian cliffs, that rise, sometimes perpendicularly from the water's edge, to heights varying between five hundred and two thousand feet. These massive walls of rock are usually bare of all vegetation except lichens and mosses, but where the inclination permits, small spruces and firs have gained a precarious foothold. The scenery is not pretty, but decidedly impressive. A few years ago some gentlemen from Ottawa entered the Saguenay in the night, and anchored at St. Etien, a small village below Marguerite Bay. One of the party, having climbed on deck while the cliffs were bathed in the weird light of early dawn, and silently observed the surroundings, remarked, "This is gloomy, grand, and peculiar." Possibly no other sentence could so aptly describe the scene.

Forty miles from Chicoutimi the river expands