

tanning river, falls in on the south side. This was ascended, as far as navigable, and the adjacent country explored.

We then resumed our voyage down the Oba, and seven miles more brought us to the second portage. This is on the north side of the middle channel, the river here being split or divided into three branches or channels. It is about 500 yards in length, and the fall in the river at this point, inclusive of the rapids below the portage, is not less than forty-five feet. The country on both sides was examined in the vicinity of this portage.

The third portage was met with about four miles from the above. It is about 275 yards in length, and situated on the left, or north, bank of the river. The fall here is about twelve feet.

In little over half an hour, or say $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the third, we came to the fourth portage. This is on the south side, and 250 miles in length; and the fall in the rapids is about ten feet.

The 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th portages all occur in the next five miles. Including rapids, which were run, the fall is not less, I think, than 140 feet in this stretch. The longest of these portages was about a quarter of a mile.

A mile or so below the eighth portage we arrived at the junction of the Wango river, which flows into this east branch of the Oba from the south. This is the only navigable tributary, with the exception of the Beaver-tanning river, on this branch. Roughly estimated, the distance, by the river, between these two tributaries, is about nineteen miles, and from the forks of the Oba to the Wango, about twenty-seven miles.

I ascended the Wango as far as navigable; in all about fifteen miles. It was very shallow, however, in many places, and at others obstructed with fallow and drift-wood. Such portages, too, as were necessary, had to be either made anew or enlarged for our canoes. I was able, however, to penetrate at this point, and to examine the interior of the tract of country I was specially anxious to see.

Returning to the junction, we descended the Oba, or Albany branch, as it is called, to the Missanabie, examining the land, from time to time, on both sides. This stretch of the river is full of rapids, and although only one more portage was necessary, the total descent or fall is considerable. The shallowness of the river, and number of rocky reefs and boulders retarded our progress greatly, and caused our speed to be so irregular that it was impossible to estimate the distance from the Wango river to the Missanabie in the usual manner. I think, however, that the length of this stretch is about ten miles, making the whole distance, from the forks of the Oba to where the eastern branch pours its waters into Missanabie river, about thirty-seven miles.

From this junction the Missanabie river was followed upward to where the Brunswick river enters it, when we ascended up that river to Brunswick lake, examining the country at intervals, more particularly on the west side.

The land on Brunswick lake was next explored, and all the streams which empty their waters into that lake were ascended as far as practicable in a light canoe. None of them were found, however, to be navigable more than a few miles at that season (July).

Therewith I crossed over to the Missanabie again, and ascended what Dr. Bell calls the Pazhushkootai river, which enters on the west side, between the portage to Brunswick lake and Thunder-water rapids. My guide calls this river "Mazaskoda." But while willing to retain such Indian names as can be readily pronounced by white men, or which may be singularly appropriate, it would not be amiss, I think, in our Provincial maps, to curtail many of these names, if not change them altogether.

This stream is twenty or thirty yards in width near the junction, but diminishes, of course, as we proceed upward toward its source. I succeeded in ascending it about twenty-four miles, and was enabled to obtain important information in reference to the section of the country drained by it. Explorations, however, up this and other tributaries of the main rivers, should be entered upon as soon as possible after the ice leaves them in the spring, and prosecuted in the months of May and June when the water is high. In July and August many of them are almost, if not altogether, dry.

On completing this exploration, I descended the Missanabie river to the portage which leads to lake Opazatike, being anxious to ascend "Grassy river," the principal