

half-way across Stuart Lake we obtained a small prospect of gold. On the north side of the lake for about 20 miles the ground is rocky, but south toward the Fort the land is good and will produce anything.

We reached Fort St. James on the 9th October, and were received by Mr. Peter Ogden with that kindness and hospitality which I have always found at the Hudson Bay Company's ports.

The Fort is very much exposed to all winds, and I found it colder than anywhere on the journey.

Stuart Lake is 50 miles long. The portage to Babine 10 miles; Babine Lake 100 miles; from Naas-Glee to Fort Simpson 250 miles, and 200 miles from Fort Simpson to Gold Harbour, Queen Charlotte Islands.

The names of the two men who accompanied me were William Manning an Englishman, and Frank Chotean a French Canadian. It is possible that I shall prospect the Fraser a little farther this fall.

*Extract from the 'Pioneer' and 'Democrat.'*

From the 'Dalles Journal,' October 24. New and Rich Gold discoveries on the Si-mil-ka-meen River.

AN Expressman named M'Guire, arrived at the Dalles in the early part of the week from Captain Archer's command, reports the discovery on the Si-mil-ka-meen River, about 5 miles from the camp. According to our informant, the discovery is confined to a small bar on the river, which is being worked by soldiers, Quartermaster's men, and a large number of Indians. The men from camp go down after breakfast, walking a distance of 5 miles, and working not more than half a day, average about 20 dollars to the hands. This is without the ordinary conveniences for mining, and with nothing but picks, using frying-pans for washing out. With "rockers" it is estimated that from 50 to 200 dollars to the hands could readily be taken out. We have not learned that any of the neighbouring bars have been prospected, but it can scarcely be possible that the rich deposits are confined to one locality, and when a thorough examination is had, it is more than likely that rich strikes will be made all along the course of the river. M'Guire, who is represented to us as an entirely reliable man, says that he himself visited the diggings and saw the miners at work, taking out gold at a rate fully equal to that stated. It is represented that the officers in command are very anxious to conceal all knowledge of the discovery, they apprehending an immediate rush that in the present condition of the country must be attended with great privations. The nearest point at which supplies necessary to the miner can be obtained is at Colvile, which is over 100 miles distant from the newly-discovered mines. The Indians, too, are represented to be decidedly hostile, and inasmuch as the troops are about to remove, miners would be exposed to constant attacks from savage foes. We mention these facts as a caution against a wild and headlong rush; but should the mines prove half as rich as represented, not all these dangers twice over would serve to check the crowd of gold-hunters that from all quarters will hie to the new El Dorado. The Expressman who brings the news says that he has been all through the California mining districts, but nowhere has he seen dirt that prospected so well as that at the Si-mil-ka-meen gold-mines. The discovery, we are told, was made by Sergeant Compton, in whose honour the locality has been named "Compton Bar."

The effect of this news has been to create quite an excitement in our town, but as yet we hear of no departures for the new gold-mines. Should the next advices confirm these startling reports, we may expect to witness a stampede scarcely equalled by that to Fraser River.

Since writing the above we have been permitted to make the following extracts from letters received at this place from officers of the army attached to the boundary survey.

Although the discoveries made are to a limited extent, yet they prove what we have heretofore asserted as our belief in the existence of gold in that part of Washington Territory, and the Upper Columbia, to be correct.

It is now, however, too late to prosecute the investigation this season, but we do not entertain a single doubt that during the next spring and summer developments