

the vast territory over which the Hudson's Bay Company have always held sway, so that in many cases the traveller or hunter whose tastes drive him to the northern solitudes knows exactly what lies before him, knows when to look out for the rapids, and knows the distance between points of importance, instead of having to depend on the vague information afforded by Indians, who take little account of time or distance.

The first part of the journey which I have attempted to describe in the following pages, with the exception of the country lying to the north-east of a line drawn from the north end of Frances Lake to the site of the Old Pelly Banks trading post, which I believe to be absolutely new ground, lies chiefly along the route followed by the Exploratory Survey party under the leadership of Dr. G. M. Dawson, and in his Report will be found an interesting and accurate account of the country travelled through.

The only geographical discovery of any importance that I made was rather of a negative character, namely, that the river draining the Pelly Lakes,