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grading; the timber becoming of very large growth, and the stream gradually increasing by the contribution of six or eight tributaries from the west (one of them rather a large one) to a width of 30 yards; till it joins the Upper Thompson, the first mouth of which (for there are two with an island between) is about 60 yards wide, flowing from the N.W., and charged with glacier water. Distance from Canoe river 32

The rise of ground between the latter and the Thompson is trifling, and so far the projected Short Cut presents no very serious obstacle. But at this point, the aspect of the elevated ridges to the west of the Thompson is such, as to preclude any reasonable hope of being able to carry a road in a straight line over them to the Clearwater, and again over the divide between the latter and Great Quesnelle Lake.

The road would therefore have to be continued further south, down the west bank of the Thompson, along steep, timber-strewn hill-sides; the forest as dense as ever, and the mountains coming down close to the water's edge, and only separated by narrow ravines from the N.E. and N.W.; till it reached the neighbourhood of Mount St. Anne, the last snow-capped mountain to the west, in about lat. $52^{\circ} 18'$, and 10 or 12 miles below the Forks. 12

Here the river widens and becomes less rapid; 3 or 4 miles lower down, where a rocky rapid stream falls in from the N.W., the valley also widens somewhat; 8 or 9 miles below Mount St. Anne another rapid stream, 40 yards wide, falls in from the N.W., the valley widens still more, and the country opens generally, though the hills again close in towards the south; and 3 or 4 miles further, or about 16 miles in all, a third stream falls in from the N.W., named the Elsecar, 30 yards wide, clear and shallow, and consequently not fed by snows or glacier water; showing that the region where it takes its rise (probably to the N.W. of Mount St. Anne) must be less elevated. The valley also presents a tolerably level space. It is, therefore, more than probable that a pass to the west may be found here, if not by the first stream immediately below Mount St. Anne, somewhere near the second; or at a distance from it, say of 12 miles 12

Thus far the road is known, and may be considered practicable, though the hill-side cuttings and gradings along the Thompson and elsewhere would be numerous and expensive, as well as the bridges over the Fraser, Canoe river, and at the Forks. But the road now enters on an unknown region; crossing nearly due west for 22 miles over an elevated divide to the sources of the Elsecar, and then probably over lower ground to Clearwater river; the name itself indicating the absence of snowy mountains. Beyond this it would cross a third, and still easier divide, to the eastern end of Horsefly Lake, 18 or 20 miles further west, and about 2,100 feet above the sea. The road would ere this have left the mountains; the width across which from the Thompson would therefore not be more than 36 or 38 miles, and the total distance, sinuosities included, about 43

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