

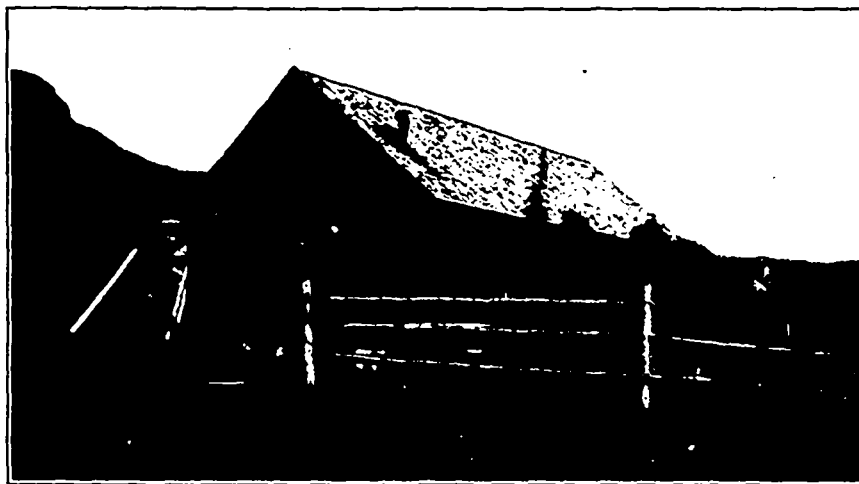
denly narrows to some 200 ft. while passing through the chasm. The rocks on each side of the canyon are water-worn to such an extent that in some places they overhang 20 or 30 ft. At the mouth of the canyon there were piles of driftwood on the rocks, 60 ft. above the level of the water at the time of my visit, showing to what a tremendous height it must "back up" during the time of flood.

We pulled our canoe out of the water and hid it in the brush, about 20 ft. above the level of the river, covering it with boughs. We also made a cache of everything we could do without, as we had a portage of 15 miles around the canyon to Hudson's Hope. At that point we hoped to get another canoe with which to continue our journey to Fort St. John, some 65 miles below the lower end of the canyon.

We started about 3:30 p.m., and camped for the night near the only water to be found on the portage, a small creek about half-way across. The next morning in two hours and a half we reached Hudson's Hope, only to find it abandoned. The trail from the

half miles below the canyon, there is a large flat on the north side of the river. This runs for about two and a half miles and extends about a mile back to the foot-hills, which are covered with bunch-grass. Judging from the banks and the height of the peavine and grass, the land is of the first class. A few scattered trees grow here and there, just sufficient to make it picturesque. Below this the river is divided by two rocky islands which rise perpendicularly to the height of 70 ft. or so, and are covered on top with a dense growth of spruce. These islands are formed of beds of sandstone lying horizontally, the bottom ones being about four feet thick and decreasing in size until at the top they are not over half an inch thick. This sandstone is very fine-grained, and from samples brought down I find it is very suitable for the manufacture of grindstones. On the rest of the route to St. John the river generally has sloping banks, with cliffs here and there composed of a dark blue slate mixed with clay.

We arrived at Fort St. John that evening, where I



Hudson's Bay Co's Post, Fort St. John, Peace River.

camp to Hudson's Hope was tramped down by bear and moose, some of the tracks showing quite fresh, but we did not meet any of the animals. There being no chance of obtaining a canoe, as expected, at Hudson's Hope, we followed the bank of the river. The banks here rise steeply to a height of about 150 ft., when they form a terrace wooded with pine timber. Open spots of prairie, here and there, give the country a beautiful park-like appearance.

About 3½ miles down the river we found dry standing timber, so I immediately set the men to work cutting down trees, preparatory to making a raft upon which to continue our journey to Fort St. John. By 9:30 p.m. we had our raft, oars and everything completed. The raft was 26 ft. long and 9 ft. wide.

Next morning, August 7, we commenced our journey on the raft. As the wind was blowing down river we hoisted a sail made out of a pair of blankets, which sent us along at a good rate, in fact, sometimes threatened to run us under water. About four and a

half miles below the canyon, there is a large flat on the north side of the river. This runs for about two and a half miles and extends about a mile back to the foot-hills, which are covered with bunch-grass. Judging from the banks and the height of the peavine and grass, the land is of the first class. A few scattered trees grow here and there, just sufficient to make it picturesque. Below this the river is divided by two rocky islands which rise perpendicularly to the height of 70 ft. or so, and are covered on top with a dense growth of spruce. These islands are formed of beds of sandstone lying horizontally, the bottom ones being about four feet thick and decreasing in size until at the top they are not over half an inch thick. This sandstone is very fine-grained, and from samples brought down I find it is very suitable for the manufacture of grindstones. On the rest of the route to St. John the river generally has sloping banks, with cliffs here and there composed of a dark blue slate mixed with clay.

Fort St. John is now situated on the north bank of the river, having been moved across from the opposite side some years ago. The post is built on a level bench about 20 ft. above the river, and consists of a dwelling house and store. The situation is a pretty one, and the soil good. Grain and roots of all kinds grow well and ripen here. The hills, on both sides of the river, are grass-covered, but bare of trees.

Owing to Mr. Bedson's absence, I could not obtain any information regarding mining matters, as the man in charge knew nothing about them. There being no provisions available, I decided to commence the return trip as soon as possible.

I returned to Manson on the evening of September 1, having been gone six weeks and one day.

The distances travelled were as follows: