

total length of about 310 miles,* and ranges in width from thirty yards, where it issues from the expansion at the Fishing Lakes, to 300 yards near its mouth. The Finlay drains a region which is everywhere of a mountainous character and is itself bordered throughout the whole of its course by lofty mountain ranges. Its navigation, for two hundred miles above its mouth, with the exception of one cañon half a mile in length, is easy, the current seldom exceeding five miles an hour, but farther up, its course is interrupted for many miles by a long succession of cañons and rapids. Its branches interlock with tributaries of the Skeena, Stikine and Liard rivers, and low passes through the mountains from one basin to the other are not uncommon.

Current and width.

The Finlay River from its mouth to its junction with the Omenica, winds through a wide flat, skirting the western base of the Rocky Mountains. It has a width in places of 300 yards or more, but is usually divided into several channels by islands and gravel bars. The current is easy, averaging about three miles an hour at a medium stage of water. The bars along this stretch of the river are all auriferous, and one of them, called Pete Toy's Bar after the discoverer, yielded a large amount of gold in the early days of mining in the country. The gold in this reach is probably mostly derived from the Omenica.

Auriferous bar.

Ospica River.

The Omenica River contributes about one-fifth of the whole water of the Finlay, at its confluence. A mile above the Omenica, the Ospica joins the Finlay from the east. It enters the latter in two branches each about a hundred feet wide. The Ospica was ascended and prospected by a party of miners some years ago, but no paying bars were discovered. It runs in a southerly direction, and cuts off a long rounded ridge from the main range of the Rockies. Above the Ospica, the Finlay runs, with the exception of one bend, in a nearly straight direction for twelve miles. It has a width here of about 200 yards and a current of scarcely two miles an hour, the slowest in the whole course of the river. It occupies a depression about four miles in width, bounded on the west by a gneissic ridge which commences at the Black Cañon on the Omenica and runs northward with gradually increasing height, and on the east by the rounded ridge which

*The total length of the Finlay-Peace-Mackenzie watercourse is approximately 2362 miles, made up as follows:—

	Miles.
Finlay River.....	310
Peace ".....	757
Slave ".....	240
Great Slave Lake.....	90
Mackenzie River.....	965
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