

Owl River, and at 10 a.m. came to a tent, but the inmates had gone off; we followed their trail all day, and came to their second tent, where we found letters (written on a tree) saying they were short of food and were gone farther west in hopes of meeting deer. We were greatly disappointed as we had come a long distance out of our way to see them, and had lost nearly two days by doing so.

20th.—Bitterly cold night; men had to turn out at 4 a.m. to put on a fire. Made an early start, and, leaving the Indian trail, we struck away south, through thick woods, with heavy, soft snow, making it very hard both for men and dogs. Our guide killed a porcupine, which we had for supper. Indians consider this a dainty dish, and my men certainly enjoyed it (they enjoy anything in the shape of food), but very little satisfied me.

21st.—Had a very heavy day, through thick woods and deep snow. All of us were fairly knocked up when we camped at 5 p.m.

22nd.—We had hoped before now to come upon a chain of lakes that would give us fair travelling to Split Lake, but we have missed them. Our guide has never been in this part of the country before, and confessed that he was at a loss to find the lakes: our going to see the Indians has thrown us too much to the south, and we may have to keep on until we come to the Nelson River, when I suspect we shall be nearer York Factory than Split Lake, and may have to go to the former place. Our dogs are getting done up, and we have only another night's food for them.

23rd. (Sunday).—After having morning service we pushed on again, but very slowly; the snow was fearful. About 3 p.m. we came upon an "old trail," which our guide said was the track of some Indians from Split Lake, who had been to York Factory at Christmas. This cheered us greatly, and we went on more briskly, the dogs not sinking so much in the deep snow. We had been travelling south, but now turned long way out. In the evening we had a real thanksgiving service, as we had now hope of reaching Split Lake. Gave our dogs their last food to-night, but hope to come across Indians to-morrow, from whom we may get some fish for them.

(To be continued)

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