

and patches of prairie alternating with brule or burnt bush, composed of all the northern timbers.

On the night of the 7th of March at dusk, we came in sight of the valley of the Peace River, and in the distance the Deer or Cariboo Mountains. The snow through this portage was 30 inches deep, still cold, ranging between 25 and 30 below zero. On this portage we came across a fire place, in which we found the remains of buffalo horns, probably lately killed, this place not being far from the range of the wood buffalo.

On leaving Lake Claire and entering the portage, we saw several rifles and ammunition bags suspended on tripods, supposed to belong to starving Indians, who were making for the Birch River, where they could catch fish.

The precipitous approach to the Peace River, obliged us, as at the Clearwater, to lower our sleds by ropes to the flat or marsh adjoining the river bed. The banks are generally wooded with large spruce and poplar, a great quantity of this timber falling into the river, is washed down by the high water and ice jams, and is recovered and utilized for building purposes as far as Fort Resolution, which has been built mainly from this source of supply.

After a few miles travel on the Peace, we struck the Swan River, which we followed up to where there had been a portage, now washed out and become a branch of the Swan emptying into the Peace River, it puzzled our guide to such an extent that we were lost for some hours, after finding a portage we proceeded on our trip through deep snow, and camped on the Peace River at Big Island portage. The river here is so large that it looked to me more like a lake, the storm was so blinding I could not estimate its width.

Following up the Peace we overtook three Cree Indians who were travelling from Deer Mountain to the Little Red River, a trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company. They had left several fires burning and, on account of the danger of setting fire to the muskeg which it is nearly impossible to quench, and is liable to break out in the spring and cause serious damage to timber, information having been laid before me I, on my arrival at the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at Little Red River, on the 10th of March, imposed a fine of \$25 on each of them, as an example, and towards preventing further infraction of the law.

This post is at the head of steamboat navigation on the Peace River, several chutes or impassable rapids being there. The freighting of supplies and return of furs above this point is done by row boats, known as the Hudson's Bay Company's York boats.

On the 11th March I met the Rev. Mr. Scott above the second or upper chute, and mentioned having fined Indians for leaving fires burning: further on, to my surprise I found that he had left his fire in exactly the same condition. I was unable to pursue him being so pressed for time to finish my journey before the breaking up of the rivers, and regret exceedingly that I was unable to do so as his punishment would have been even a better object lesson than that inflicted on the Indians.

We camped that night at the Loon River, the thermometer registering 50 below zero, here a Cree half-breed resided who had been reported to me as having used poisoned bait, thereby killing an Indian train dog. I may mention that the Indian train dog is frequently used as a pack or draft animal, as well as a retriever or hunting dog, and is invaluable to his owner. The above mentioned half-breed had "pitched off" and no tracks being visible about his house I was unable to follow him. The 12th—after following the river some distance and making a three mile portage we arrived at E. J. Lawrence's winter ranch containing 60 head of grade Durham cattle which are dehorned, also 35 horses. It is said to be the most northerly ranch in America.

After leaving this ranch and following a waggon road on the portage through ten miles of bush, prairie and swamp, and having crossed the Peace River we arrived at Fort Vermillion which is the principal post of the Hudson's Bay Company on the Peace, although attached to Athabasca district, Mr. F. D. Wilson being the official in charge.

It varies from most of the Hudson's Bay Company's posts, not being inclosed, it is well located and neatly kept. There is a settlement including the Hudson's Bay Company, of 168 people: they own 159 horses, 297 cattle and 54 swine, this includes the belongings of the two missions, viz.: Church of England and Roman Catholic.