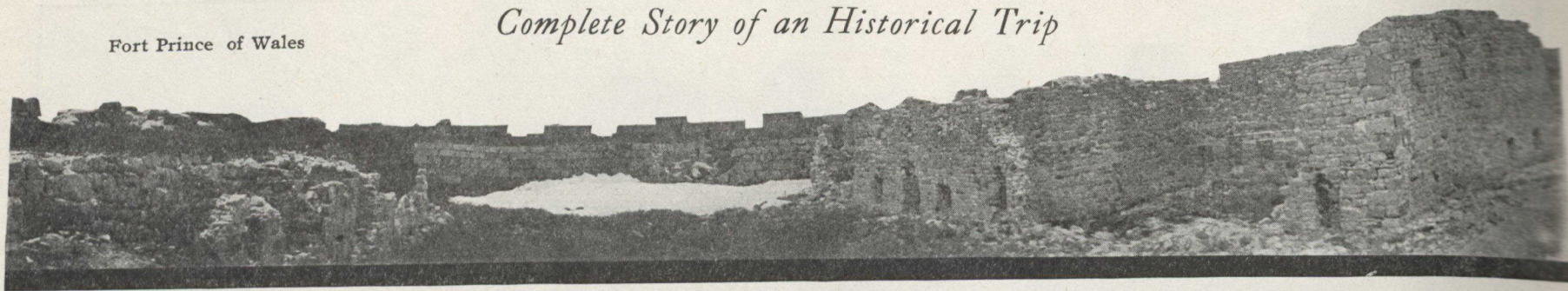


WITH EARL GREY TO HUDSON'S BAY

Complete Story of an Historical Trip

Fort Prince of Wales



HIS Excellency Earl Grey and party left Winnipeg on August 3rd for Norway House and Hudson's Bay. The principal object of the trip is epitomised in the words of His Excellency: "The history of Canada is one continuous disproof of the theory of the frozen north. The object of this expedition is to add another chapter to that history." Almost every part of Canada has been visited by His Excellency, and he now wished to see the short route from the north-west to the sea, the route that was followed by illustrious explorers of Canada's hinterland, the route along which for two centuries the trade of half a continent has been conducted, but which yet remains in its primeval condition, soon, however, to be transformed by modern methods of transportation. It happens that this year is the tercentenary of Hudson's discovery of Canada's great Mediterranean Sea, and it was fitting that it should receive a visit from her Governor-General.

The party as far as Norway House consisted of His Excellency Earl Grey, Her Excellency the Countess Grey, Lady Evelyn, Major Trotter and Captain Bingham, A.D.C.'s, Mr. George Grey, Mr. L. S. Amery, Prof. J. MacNaughton, Dr. McCrae and Mr. R. W. Brock.

Reaching Selkirk early on the 4th of August, the party was driven in three automobiles to St. Andrew's Dam and Lock. The dam, which can be raised like Venetian blinds to allow the ice to run, is the first of its kind in America. It raises the water seventeen feet and overcomes several miles of rapid, the only obstruction to navigation between the City of Winnipeg and the head of Lake Winnipeg, a distance of 300 miles. The lift is accomplished by a lock 215 feet long. There is no toll for locking; the lock has to be opened for a solitary Indian in his canoe. The dam has an unforeseen value; by raising the water three or four feet at Winnipeg it seals the mouth of the sewers, and thus ensures complete drainage.

From St. Andrews the party returned to Selkirk, stopping en route at Old Fort Garry, where Commissioner Chipman of the Hudson Bay Company, and Mrs. Chipman acted as hosts. This picturesque fort on the banks of the Red River, with its loop-holed walls and quaint commodious buildings, its trees, lawns and gardens, is still in good repair.

After lunch, the party embarked on the steamer Wolverine, a Boys' Brigade and a troop of Boy Scouts forming a guard of honour, and from Selkirk the boat dropped down stream past the old Red River Settlement to the lake. All afternoon, all night, and all day the Wolverine ploughed her course through Lake Winnipeg (which is larger than Lake Ontario), and on the evening of the 5th, entered the mouth of Saskatchewan.

An Indian Welcome.

THE Indians had been apprised of the visit. Evergreen decorated their wharf, a large "Welcome" adorned their warehouse, and a firing party drawn up on the bank gave audible expression to their joy in being honoured by a visit from Vice-Royalty. The women and children in their gaudiest apparel were in one group, and the men in their broadcloths in another. Upon landing, Mackay, a half-breed, advanced and on behalf of the Indians presented His Excellency with an address of welcome, which for penmanship, phraseology and sentiment could scarcely be improved. Indeed, few white towns or small cities could have excelled in such a function this Indian community of one hundred families. They expressed their loyalty and devotion as British subjects, respectfully drew attention to a natural route for a railway from Whiskey Point to Split Lake, and as voyageurs who knew what such a trip meant, expressed the hope that His Excellency might have a prosperous journey and a safe return. In thanking them, Earl Grey stated that in the not far distant future a canal round Grand Rapids might render the Saskatche-

By W. M. SCANLAN,

From the official account of the trip made by Mr. R. W. Brock, Director of Geological Survey, who was one of the party.

wan a natural highway, bringing prosperity to their settlement.

His remarks, translated with ease and fluency by Mackay, were received by the Indians with grunts of approval. They then gave three rousing cheers for His Excellency, and respectfully opened a lane in their ranks through which the party might proceed to the portage and tramway by which the Grand Rapids are at present overcome, and where it is suggested that a canal might be built to bring the Saskatchewan into steamboat communication with Winnipeg.

On the morning of August 6th, Warren's Landing, at the outlet of Lake Winnipeg, was reached. Here the baggage was transferred to a steam launch towing a York boat, and the party to a gasoline launch for a run to Norway House, situated on the north-eastern channel of the Nelson River, there divided



A Group of Indians, Two Porpoises and a number of hungry "Huskies" at York.

Courtesy Geological Survey.

by large islands into several branches. The weather was wet and stormy, and on Playgreen Lake a canoe being towed by the launch had to be abandoned. Then the motor went bad, and for half an hour the launch bobbed around helplessly in the wind and rain. Norway House was reached at 3 p.m. The white buildings of the post, surrounded by a white palisade, were gaily decorated with flags and hunting. Over the main gateway was stretched a banner bearing a welcome in Cree. Despite the rain, the Indians were grouped on the banks and fired salutes to the representative of their King. Rapid loading and firing was the feature of this function. The party occupied a camp pitched on a point outside the post, where Saturday and Sunday were spent. Norway House, always an important post, is now the company's headquarters for the whole territory north and east of Lake Winnipeg to the west coast of Hudson's Bay. An interesting relic, in a well-kept, neatly laid out garden attached to the post, is a sundial made by Sir John Franklin. Monday morning preparations for the journey to York were completed by Major Moodie, who had charge of the arrangements, and who conducted the party to York.

After luncheon, Her Excellency Countess Grey, and Lady Evelyn, accompanied by Captain Bingham, left for Winnipeg, and at 3 o'clock His Excellency's party embarked in twelve canoes. These were manned by twenty-four Indians. Three mounted policemen formed an escort, and with a cook and two servants, completed the brigade which shoved off and paddled for Hudson's Bay amid a fusillade from all the shotguns of the place, which spoke "Farewell and a fair wind."

Ten miles were accomplished before a halt was made for camp. No tents were pitched, everyone sleeping out on the smooth rocks, with the hooting of the owls and the clatter of the young ducks in the rushes for a lullaby. Next morning, camp was roused at 4 a.m., and by 5.30 breakfast was over, the canoes loaded and the journey resumed. About nine, following the custom of the company's brigades, a halt was made to boil the kettle for the men's breakfast. About 1.30 a stop was made for lunch, and about 6 o'clock camp was pitched.

This schedule was followed throughout the trip: Shortly after starting, Sea River Falls was reached, which necessitated a short portage, and at 11 o'clock the Etchimis River, where the boat route to York leaves the Nelson, turning up this small tributary. Favoured by a fair wind, the canoes hoisted sail and the little mosquito fleet sped up to and across Hairy Lake. In its upper part, the Etchimis is a crooked, marshy stream and camp was made in wet swail grass. A rain, which failed to dampen the ardour of the mosquitoes, added nothing to the natural attractions of the spot, but this was the only camp on the whole trip that was not a beautiful one. On August 10th, continuing up stream, three dams, maintained to render navigable for York boats, were crossed. These are mentioned as originally beaver dams, by Sir John Franklin, in his "Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea." At the Painted Stone Portage, Nelson River water is left and Hayes River entered and followed to the sea. After the swampy Etchimis, the rocky hills, island studded lakes, and wooded shores of the Hayes are doubly attractive. The party camped at the end of Robinson Portage, the only long one on the route.

Mr. George Grey, who was the fisherman of the party, and kept the camp supplied with fresh fish, while landing a struggling pike, had the misfortune to injure his leg, laming him for the rest of the journey. Toward evening a brigade of five York boats was met returning from Oxford House.

Oxford House.

FAVOURED by good weather and often by fair wind, rapid time was made and on the evening of Friday, Aug. 12th, the party reached Oxford House, having completed about 160 miles of the journey to the sea. The post stands on a grass-covered peninsula of clay, about fifty feet high, near the lower end of Oxford Lake. The sun had set when they entered the bay but in a golden afterglow they approached the post, canoes abreast, except His Excellency's, which was in front of the centre of the line. The Indians grouped round the flag staff in front of the post, fired round after round from their double-barrelled shotguns, as a fusillade of welcome. Camp happened to be pitched alongside the dog corral, and all night the huskies prolonged the reception. Saturday morning, the Indians grouped on the grass in front of the Factor's house while their spokesman advanced, hat in hand, to express to His Excellency their appreciation of his visit. Carson, the guide, acted as interpreter.

Earl Grey, in replying, stated that he was much pleased with their country and still more so to find them prosperous, contented and without cause for complaints. He knew no people who could average a higher income or live more cheaply. Those who wish to work obtain highly paid employment during the summer and the trapping in the winter alone offered them a more substantial living than