

The height of the summit of the first Pass is about 6,300 feet above the sea—the mountains on either side, however, being double that altitude and capped with perpetual snow. The height of the second Pass is nearly the same; the track is well defined, and has been used for many years by the Kootenay Indians. In some places the path is very narrow, leading over high and dangerous ground—we found it necessary frequently to dismount. The distance from the eastern to the western entrance of the Pass in the Kootenay Valley is about 47 miles. It would be difficult to describe, in adequate language, the beauty and grandeur of the scenery all through. It is impossible to take any wheeled vehicle at present through the Kootenay, and when there is snow in the Mountains in any quantity, horses cannot pass.

The present horse trail, however, might be easily improved—a party of fifty men could, in the course of a single season, make it equal to the ordinary horse trails in the Province of British Columbia. Considerable labour however would be required to make a waggon road, and to carry a railway across the Mountains by this Pass, it would be necessary to tunnel through two mountains.

The Stipendiary Magistrate of the Kootenay District, British Columbia, resides at Wild Horse Creek; there is a population of from twenty-five to thirty white men, gold miners there, and about one hundred Chinese. The miners, at that time, were not making more on an average than five or six dollars per man per day. Ample supplies of beef and flour, at moderate prices, can be obtained, but the price of clothing and other supplies is very high—such supplies having to be brought on mules or pack-horses, either from Walla Walla, in Washington Territory, U.S., or from the town of Hope, on the Fraser River, B. C., a distance of four hundred and fifty miles.

A Custom House has been established at Joseph's Prairie, about 14 miles from Wild Horse Creek with an excellent effect, and if a similar one was established on the Eastern side of the mountain with a military guard, at the Porcupine Hills, a still better result would be obtained.

The Postal communication from the Kootenay District to Victoria, is as yet very bad, and it is every desirable to improve the present trail leading via Osoyo's and the Simil-Kameen to the town of Hope, on the Fraser, or to make a waggon road.

The District of Kootenay is of great extent, embracing an area of 32,000 square miles; The total population amounts to about eighty-five white men, two hundred Chinese, and 400 or 500 Kootenay Indians.

There is an immense quantity of fine timber in the Kootenay District and in the Valleys of the Rocky Mountains, chiefly cedar and pine trees of great height and size and the mineral resources are believed to be very great. The Valleys between the different Hill ranges, in the Kootenay District, are generally speaking fertile and well adapted for farming.

There are four gold mines in the District, namely: Wild Horse Creek, Perry's Creek, Palmer's Bar and Weaver's Bar—only the two former, however, are being worked.

The Government of the District was at the time of my visit under the able administration of Mr. A. Vowell, Stipendiary Magistrate and Gold Commissioner.

"Wild Horse Creek," although situated in a lovely country, is itself one of the most desolate spots imaginable; a narrow rugged

valley, surrounded by lofty hills, in the heart of the Rocky Mountains.

From Wild Horse Creek, the guides who had accompanied me from the Rocky Mountain House, after obtaining fresh supplies, started on the 8th of October to return to the Rocky Mountain House, intending to take what they hoped might prove a shorter route, and one safer from risk of Indian molestation.

After my return to Ottawa I learnt that they effected the return journey to the Rocky Mountain House with safety in eighteen days recrossing the Mountains by the Ispasquehow Pass; ten days were occupied in crossing the Mountains, and much difficulty encountered—two of the horses rolled down an immense Ravine, but were fortunately not much hurt.

The Assiniboine Indian deserted the two other guides in crossing the Mountains thereby greatly increasing their labour.

Arriving at the spot where the cart had been "cached;" the two guides recovered it and returning from thence by the route originally taken reached their home at the Rocky Mountain House towards the end of October without accident or the loss of a horse.

These two guides alone completed a trying and adventurous journey of several hundred miles with no further damage or deficiency, than the loss of two saddles and an axe.

They saw immense herds of Buffalo on the return journey, and at the Bow River fell in with a party of American smugglers, having waggons with them, containing whiskey and ardent spirits, with which to carry on their illicit and nefarious traffic with the Blackfoot tribe—a kind of traffic which enables these unscrupulous traders to realize large profits, rob the Indians of Buffalo robes and valuable furs, and causes annually certain bloodshed amongst the Indian tribes.

On the 8th of October with one guide only and five horses obtained at Wild Horse Creek, I continued the journey from there, and after fifteen days' travel, proceeding via the Mooyais River, Lake Pen d'Oreille, the Spokane, and Snake Rivers, arrived at the settlements of Walla Walla and Walula, in Washington Territory, U. S.

It had been my intention to proceed from "Wild Horse Creek" to the town of Hope on the "Fraser," a distance of about 500 miles via Fort Shepherd, Lake Osoyo's, the Okanogan country and Similkameen River, but owing to the lateness of the season the guide was unwilling to take this route.

The journey from Wild Horse Creek to Lake Pan d'Oreille was tedious and fatiguing having only one guide to share with me and my son the labour of travelling with horses for many days along the Indian Track encumbered with fallen timber, and through a rugged densely wooded, and difficult country. The scenery from Wild Horse Creek to Lake Pen d'Oreille, and especially about that Lake is very beautiful, but further south on reaching the Spokane River U.S., the country presents the appearance of an arid waste—Washington Territory, U. S., being partly situated in what is known as the great Columbian Desert.

Washington Territory, U. S., is however, as well as many parts of British Columbia, admirably suited for horses and cattle, from what is known as "Bunch grass," growing there in great perfection.

From Walula, descending the Columbia, I proceeded via Portland, in Oregon, Olympia and Puget Sound, to Victoria, in Vancouver's Island, arriving at Victoria on the twenty-eight day of October, having accomplished

the journey from Fort Garry in seventy days, of which only fifty one were occupied in actual travel—the distance by the route followed from Fort Garry to Vancouver's Island being nearly three thousand miles—of this distance considerably more than two thousand miles were travelled on horse-back.

After remaining fourteen days at Victoria, visiting the Island of San Juan, in company with the Senior Naval Officer of H. M. ships and arranging for the organization of the militia in the Province of British Columbia, I returned to Ottawa, via San Francisco and the U. S. Pacific Railway, stopping for two days to visit the Mormon City at the great Salt Lake in Utah Territory.

[To be Continued.]

The German Chancellor demands 4,000,000 talers of the French indemnity for strategical and administrative telegraphs.

The following is an extract from a letter from Field Marshal von Moltke to the *Litbecker Zeitung*, dated at Creisau, October 15, 1872. "I am the third of seven sons of my father, the Danish Lieutenant General von Moltke. My mother, Henriette Paschen, was daughter of the Councillor of Finance Paschen, of Hamburg. . . . I was born at the residence of my uncle, Helmuth von Moltke, in Parchim, Mecklenburg, on the 28th October, 1800. After my birth my parents settled in Lubeck, where, in 1806 our house was plundered by the French. At an early age I was sent in company with an elder brother, to the academy in Copenhagen, where I passed a rather joyless life. At the age of eighteen I was made an officer; but the poor prospects offered by the Danish service excited in me the desire to serve in the Prussian army in which my father and several of his brothers had also served. Provided with excellent recommendations by my regimental commander, the Duke von Holstein Beck, and father of the present King of Denmark, I proceeded to Berlin, passed examination as officer, and was placed in the Eight Regiment of Foot. From that time begins my military career. Of literary works I have published the "Russian Campaign" "Letters from Turkey, a map of Constantinople, the Bosphorus and the vicinity of Rome. The campaigns in Italy, Denmark and Austria are not exclusively my work, but that of the historical department of the staff under my direction."

The pioneer party of the Oriental Topographical corps from New York, for exploration of Bible lands, have gone from Egypt to Syria and Asia Minor. A scale photograph of the Nileometer, devised by one of the corps, has been taken, which, it is claimed, will definitely settle the vexed cubit question. A plan of rapidly taking altitudes of runs, pyramids, &c., invented by one of the party, is said to work admirably.

The depot horses of the French army, to the number of 9,300, were to be inspected by artillery officers appointed for the purpose on the 20th ult.

The military manoeuvres in Switzerland last year have demonstrated the imperfections which exist in the equipment of the Federal artillery.

Ex President Thiers took his seat in the Assembly to-day.

The Prince of Wales has arrived here on his way home.

Prince Pierre Bonaparte is in Paris.