

which he gave the name "McKay Lake," in honour of Dr. McKay, the Factor in charge of the Hudson Bay Co's posts in the Athabasca District. In this vicinity he spent some of the winter months, hunting the Barren-ground Caribou and Musk ox ere he returned to Slave Lake. It was his intention to go much further north the ensuing summer *via* the Great Fish River. With a view to encourage trade with the Esquimaux who hunted in that district, Mr. Jas. McKinley, the clerk in charge of Fort Resolution, joined with Mr. Pike in forming a somewhat large party. The proposed route was evidently to retrace Mr. Pike's steps northward to McKay Lake, thence coasting eastward to the outlet, and following the Lockhart River to Aylmer Lake, from the north east corner portaging to the Great Fish River, but after reaching Lac du Mort on this route, a short distance north of Slave Lake, the direction was changed to a more direct course, across country to the Lockhart River.

On the afternoon of May 7th, with dog trains and sleds or toboggans, the party left the Hudson Bay Co's establishment at Fort Resolution, and travelled principally on the ice of the lake northward along the eastern shore. On the 9th they crossed the lake to the group of islands called by Capt. Back, Simpson's Group. Turning more to the north east, their course for several days lay among the islands forming this chain, and on the 15th they probably reached the narrows, or within a short distance of that point. Here they met some Indians, and halted to engage them to accompany the party. Much objection was made owing to the scarcity of provisions, the Indians being in a starving condition and the travellers but lightly equipped. This necessitated a delay to hunt, and finally on the 23rd they all started and travelled about ten miles. On the 23rd the travelling was slow, and they went probably the same distance. Of that part of the lake the description given in the journal is as follows: "The lake on leaving camp widens out, is studded with rocky islands, and the banks on each side are high and rocky, sparsely covered with stunted pine and birch." The next day they travelled only about five miles on the lake to a small river, up which they turned, leaving the Great Slave Lake. "We found on following up the little stream a succession of falls, which were all frozen, with high banks of ice. These took us till evening to surmount, some