

the trails or the location of the claims, and as all the prospectors were out of the country, it was like 'hunting for a needle in a hay-stack'; so, when in the early morning of the 13th it began to snow heavily, and we were at least two days' journey from the Bulkley, with 'grub' almost gone, it was decided, with regret, to abandon further explorations in that direction, and to strike back for the Bulkley.

"There is no trail down Glacier Creek, and the creek valley is little better than a muskeg, but with some difficulty the horses were led down the creek valley for some three or four miles, keeping to the hillside on the north side of the creek. We then struck off to the north over a comparatively open muskeg country for about three miles, into the valley of a small creek flowing south into Glacier Creek. This small creek heads in a marshy divide, from which Red Creek flows north into Goat Creek and so into the lower Telkwa. Following the west side of Red Creek from the Telkwa there is an old Indian hunting trail, known as 'Moose-skin Johnnie's trail,' used in the fall and winter by the Indians to reach their hunting grounds at the head of the Telkwa. This trail is about as bad as it is possible to be, and climbs away up on the hillside, presumably to get more solid bottom for the trail, but is not properly cut out, and simply served the Indians to pass over twice a year.

"Camp was finally made on Red Creek, about four miles above its junction with Goat Creek, where a small opening afforded scant pasturage for horses.

"September 14.—The trail follows Red Creek down to Goat Creek, a distance of four miles, and crosses the latter by a ford below the junction of Red Creek. There is also a log foot-bridge across the creek. From this ford there is a trail leading over to and up the Telkwa to the coal locations of the Kitimat Coal Co., which were then visited and which have already been described.

"After crossing the ford the trail mounts the gravel benches of the Telkwa, and in about two miles joins the Goat Creek trail, already described, some four miles out from the Bulkley River. The camp outfit was taken across the Bulkley in a canoe, the horses being left on the south side, and camp was again made on the previous camp ground on the northeast side of the Bulkley, opposite the mouth of the Telkwa.

"September 15 was spent in camp. The horses were swum over at the lower crossing, a very awkward place with a precipitous 'take-off' into very deep, swift water, but with an eddy and gravel beach on the north bank affording a good landing.

"Supplies for the remainder of the trip were obtained from the Aldermere store. The guide and the packer were here paid off, and a pack-horse sold to a party going through to Bella Coola.

"September 16.—Camp was moved down the valley of the Bulkley, a distance of 12 miles, to the Hudson Bay Co's ranche near Driftwood Creek.

"From the mouth of the Telkwa the trail at once mounts the bench land, which, near the river, is very dry and inclined to be sandy, with scant vegetation; but as the rolling foot-hills near Tyee Lake are reach-

ed, the soil becomes a fine loam, well suited for cultivation. The telegraph trail was again picked up at the south end of Tyee Lake, at which point there is an office and an operator.

"To the north of Tyee Lake the ground slopes gradually to the higher hills, and along this side-hill there are a number of ranches, some of them fenced, on which comfortable cabins have been built and large stacks of hay put up, cut from the wild hay growing on the yet uncultivated hillside. These ranchers, besides wintering their own stock, are wintering a number of horses for prospectors and surveyors, at from \$12 to \$15 a head. They expect to have to feed hay for from three to four months, but provide no shelter for the stock. The land is well watered, and such small areas as were under cultivation yielded good crops of potatoes and other vegetables.

"The country passed over between Tyee Lake and Hudson Bay ranche is of a similar nature, a large proportion of it open country, while some of it is covered with poplar and willow, with occasional spruce. The wild grasses, pea-vine and fire-weed cover the open portions, producing a crop well worth cutting for hay.

"The Hudson Bay ranche is provided with extensive sheds and stables for stock, with two or three houses for employees. The property is at present leased to a Frenchman, who purports to keep a 'hotel,' at which the guests cook their own meals and provide their own blankets and bedding.

"About three miles east of the Hudson Bay ranche, on Canyon Creek, there was noted, in the bed of the creek, a very nice exposure of the local coal measures, consisting of shales and sandstones, the latter well ripple-marked, with small seams of coal. No workable coal is exposed here, and the occurrence of the measures is noted only to show the possibility of coal being found underlying a considerable portion of the valley of the Bulkley.

"September 17.—All baggage and supplies, except enough for a trip of one week, were stored in one of the ranch buildings, and P. McPhee, a local prospector, was engaged as a guide for a trip into the Babine Range, where a number of prospects had recently been staked, between the headwaters of Canyon and Driftwood Creeks.

Babine Range.

"The trail up to these claims leaves the telegraph trail about half a mile west of Driftwood Creek, and cutting across the rolling hills through pea-vine and fire-weed higher than the horses' backs, crosses Driftwood Creek about two miles up from the trail. At this point the coal measures, similar to those on Canyon Creek, are exposed in the bank of the creek. The trail follows the east bank of Driftwood up for a couple of miles farther, through heavy spruce wood, when it begins to climb the main mountain side by steep and poorly cut-out trail, through the small jack-pine and balsam timber.

"After travelling for about eight miles and climbing to an altitude of about 5,500 ft., which occupied some five hours' time, camp was pitched above timber