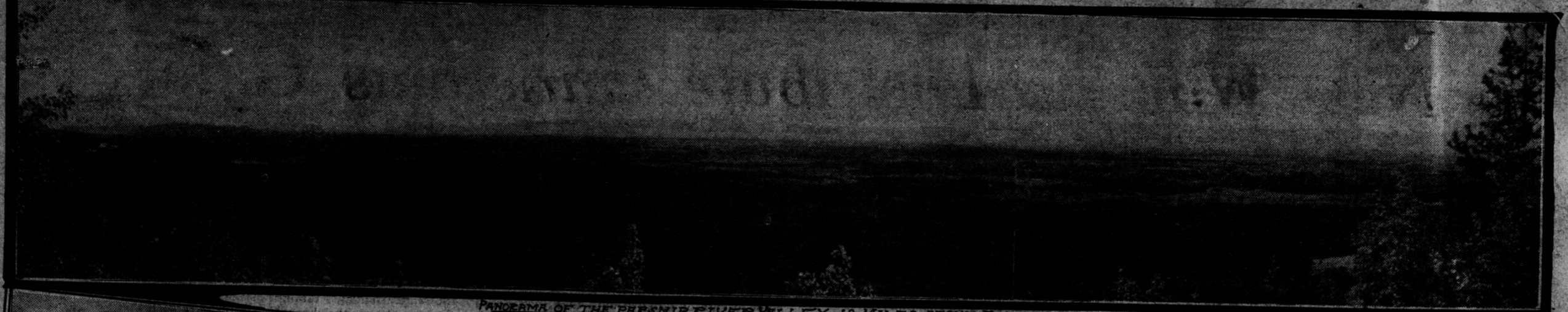


British Columbia's PEACE RIVER District



PANORAMA OF THE PARSNIP RIVER VALLEY 12 MILES ABOVE FINDLAY RAPIDS



RAINBOW TROUT FROM THE CROOKED RIVER



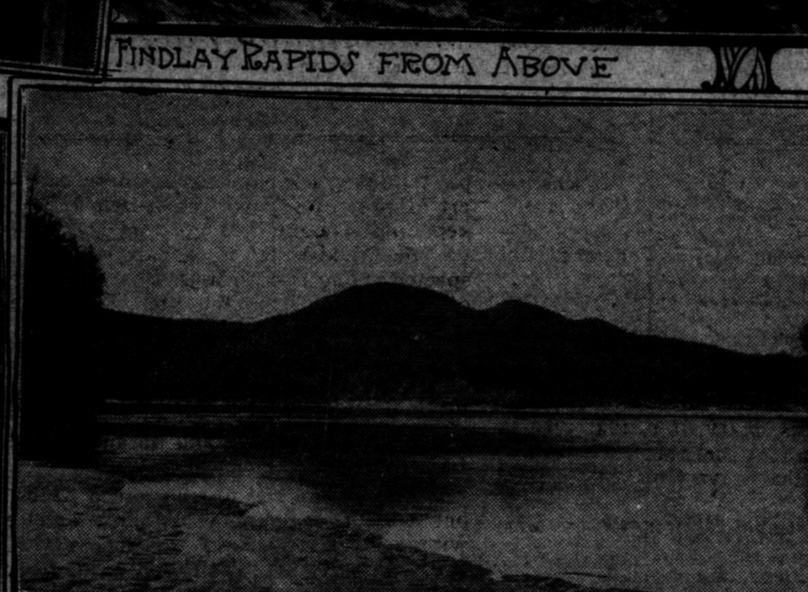
FINDLAY RAPIDS FROM ABOVE



HOME-GROWN VEGETABLES AT FORT Mc LEOD



SHOWING THE SIZE OF COTTONWOODS ON THE BANKS OF THE PARSNIP



PARSNIP RIVER 45 MILES BELOW PARK RIVER



FORT Mc LEOD - THE FIRST ESTABLISHED H.B.C. FORT IN B.C.

HERMON AND BURWELL REPORT UPON THEIR SEASON'S EXPLORATIONS AND DISCOVERIES

One of the most complete and interesting reports coming to hand this season from the provincial government's corps of exploratory surveyors in the field is that which has just been presented to Hon. William R. Ross, chief commissioner of crown lands, by Messrs. Hermon & Burwell, B. C. L. S. of Vancouver, who were assigned by Surveyor-General E. B. McKay, on the 15th of May last, to visit, examine and report upon that section of British Columbia lying to the east of the Rocky Mountains, and known generally as the Peace River district—a region in which Government Agent F. C. Campbell spent approximately two years, returning last summer with an interesting report in which prominence was given to the apparently great extent and value of the coal areas of the Pine River Pass locality, and the extent and value of the mineral graine lands.

An especially interesting portion of Messrs. Hermon & Burwell's report is that which chronicles the incidents of a visit to Fort McLeod, at an elevation of 3,300 feet, the oldest Hudson's Bay company fort in British Columbia, having been originally established by the Northwest Trading company and afterwards taken over by the Hudson's Bay company in 1820. There are 86 Indians left of the Slocan nation, who hunt and trade here, but are fast dying off.

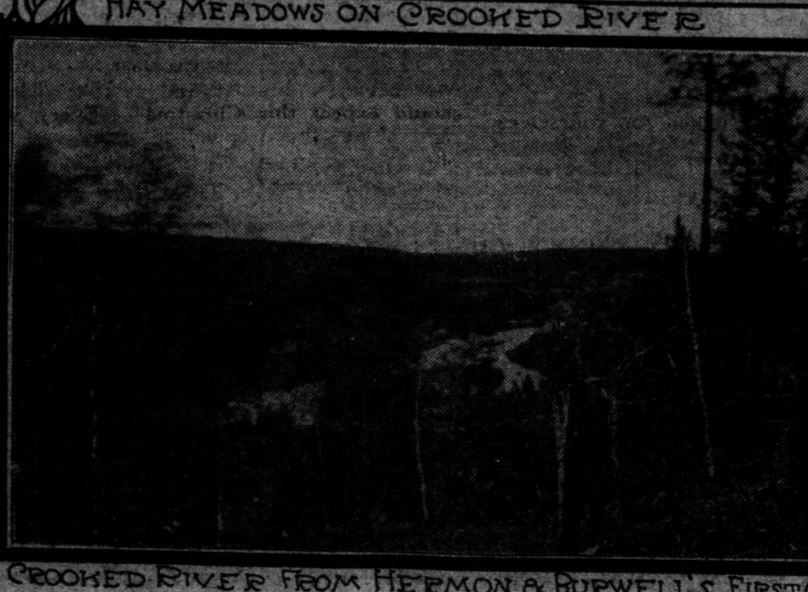
"They are meat-eaters," says the report, "and hunt all the year round—consequently the big game is pretty well cleaned out of this vast district; the beaver and other small fur-bearers are also getting scarce for the same reason. The streams and lakes, however, abound with trout and chub, which prevents them from actually starving."

From Fort McLeod a first view of the Rockies is obtained, the great continental range showing on the east side of the Parsnip river. The country generally is spoken of as well adapted to vegetable growing, although there are frequent frosts.

That the G. T. F. railway company is not overlooking the apparently great importance of the coal deposits of the upper Pine River country is indicated in the announcement that "The Grand Trunk Pacific have run a survey line—said levels through the Pine River Pass. It runs around the



HAY MEADOWS ON CROOKED RIVER



CROOKED RIVER FROM HERMON & BURWELL'S FIRST CAMP

northern end of Twodia lake and crosses the Park river about three miles farther north. The distance between the Park and the Parsnip rivers by this line is three and a half miles. The Misashnicha river has its source in the Rockies at what is known as the Pine River Pass, and runs westerly about 20 miles, where it debouches into the Parsnip at 135 miles from its source. This creek averages about 30 feet in width and contained about 25 second feet of water in August.

Some Gold Panned

"We panned some flour gold from this stream," say the exploratory surveyors, "but it is too fine and in too small quantity to be of value. The old Hudson's Bay company's trail, running from Stuart lake to Fort McLeod, thence to Twodia lake and Parsnip river, and through the Pine River Pass on 25 Indian's Hole, crosses the Parsnip one and a quarter miles above the Misashnicha.

"The Findlay Rapids are practically the headwaters of the Peace river, in Latitude 56.45 at an elevation of 2,900 feet above sea level. They are very swift and deep, with large boulders and rocky outcroppings through them; they are about a quarter of a mile long by 400 feet wide, and have a drop of 12 feet running in a northwesterly direction. The flat country terminates here on the eastern side, as far as the Parsnip and Peace rivers are concerned, the Rocky Mountains forming the banks of the Peace for about 20 miles."

With reference to the climate of the British Columbia portion of the Peace River country, Messrs. Hermon & Burwell say: "The seasons, according to the Hudson's Bay company's records are rather severe around McLeod and the Parsnip Valley, McLeod lake freezing up the 1st of November, and the ice remaining until the beginning of May, the average snowfall during that time being about five feet. Summer frosts occur frequently; this summer the leaves began to change and the tops of the Hudson's Bay company's potatoes being frozen off about the middle of August.

"The summer weather while we were there, was ideal, the nights being cool and the days clear and bright, while the hottest days were in the first week of July, when the thermometer registered up to 82 degrees in the shade for three days. The coldest night was on

they are called, which are numerous in the Parsnip river and are excellent eating; they will also take a fly. There are quite a few bears of the grizzly, silver tip, black and brown species to be had by anyone who understands hunting. The moose, caribou and deer are scarce at present, but as the young alder and willow grow up in the burnt country, doubtless they will come in from the territory along the Peace river where they are reported as being numerous at present.

"There are one or two gold bearing quartz ledges on the Pine River Pass; also some coal seams, all of which are staked. There are also seams of lignite to be seen throughout the district and plenty of float of the same character, but they are of no value. There is a good quartz ledge reported on Wicket creek, about 20 miles down the Peace, but we did not get down to see it. We panned most of the streams and creeks, but got nothing excepting in the Misashnicha, where the gold was too fine to be of any value.

"In summing up the country explored," observe Messrs. Hermon & Burwell in conclusion, "we may state that the character of the soil is generally of a light sandy description, with a gravel sub soil; along the rivers it is richer, being more of a sandy loam, in some places two feet deep with a gravel sub soil. The average width of the crooked river valley on the east side is seven miles, of the Peace River valley about two and a half miles, and of the Parsnip River valley, about 11 miles. The average elevation of the country explored is 3,300 feet above sea level; the country along the Crooked river is wild, undulating forest land; in the Parsnip valley it is flat benches. The

timber is chiefly spruce averaging about eight inches in diameter, jack pine averaging about ten inches, balsam about ten inches, white birch, with an occasional fir, while cottonwood, alder, willow and poplar are very thick, especially along the banks of the rivers. The cottonwood grows from 30 to 36 inches and these trees are the ones the Indians use for making their canoes. We would suggest that if you intend completing the exploration of the Peace river country you place a reserve on both sides of the Findlay river as far north as Fort Graham, which could be explored at the same time, and we beg to apply for the exploring of the country on the east side of the same. The total number of acres explored this season was approximately 280,000, and the number of miles traversed approximately two hundred and twenty."

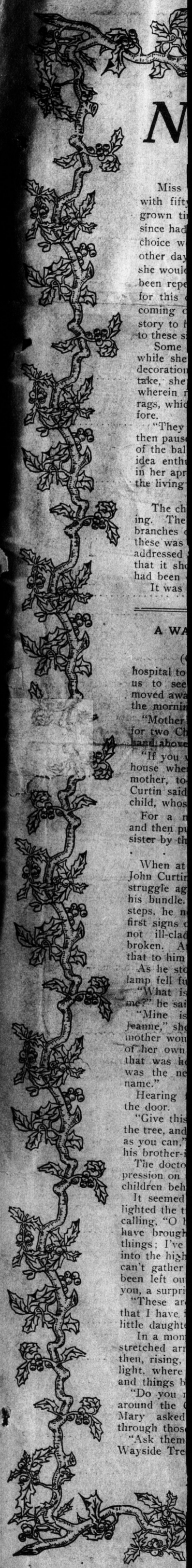
WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN OF MARY FREE

When Christ was born of Mary free, In Bethlehem, that fair city, Angels sang there with mirth and glee, "In excelsis gloria."

Herdsman beheld these angels bright, To them appearing with great light, Who said God's son is born tonight, "In excelsis gloria."

The King is come to save mankind, As in scripture truths we find, Therefore this song we have in mind, "In excelsis gloria."

Then, dear Lord, for Thy great grace, Grant us in bliss to see Thy face, That we may sing to Thy solace, "In excelsis gloria."



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