

From the summit to Lake Lindeman there is a descent, approximately, by my barometer observations, of 1,237 feet.

I append the readings of the barometer from salt water up to the summit of Chilkoot Pass, and during three days at the summit. There are no simultaneous readings at the coast, which leaves the correct altitude, as far as it can be determined by my barometer readings, a matter of uncertainty; but while making the survey from the head of canoe navigation on the Taiya River, I took the angles of elevation of each station up to the summit, and the angles of depression from the station at the summit down to Lake Bennet, so that I can from these determine very closely the altitude of the summit. This I have not yet had time to do, but will do so when I go into winter quarters.

On the 12th of July I had finished all my preparations for the descent of the river, and started the survey proper from the point on Lake Lindeman above mentioned. This lake is about five miles long, about four of which lie on the line of travel into the interior.

At twenty-eight and one-half miles from salt water we reach the head of Lake Bennet, of Schwatka. Between it and Lake Lindeman there is a portage of about three-quarters of a mile in length, the river being rough, narrow and crooked.

The upper end of Lake Bennet is bounded by high mountains, and there is some timber near the head of the lake, then little or none except in the ravines, until the middle of its length is reached, when the lake widens out to about twice the width of the upper end. Here we find flats and valleys; in the latter numerous large spruce trees were noticed, but they are covered from the ground up with large limbs which render them almost unfit for use.

About eighteen miles down Lake Bennet we reach the mouth of a large arm of the lake. It extends in a south-westerly direction, and is said by the Indians to head about fifteen miles away in the glacier, from which the westerly fork of the Taiya River takes its source. At its junction this arm of the lake is about one mile wide, and as far as could be seen up it (about eight miles) it is bordered by high mountains. This arm is named by Schwatka on his map the "Wheaton River."

There is little or no timber of any value at the lower end of Lake Bennet, where there is an extensive sandy flat, called by the miners, "Cariboo Crossing."

A short distance below Lake Bennet we enter Lake Nares, as named by Schwatka. This lake is shallow, with muddy flat shores on the west side, covered with small scrubby timber. On the east side, the bank is higher and the timber of better quality; but there is none of commercial value, even were there a cheap way of getting it out.

Passing through Lake Nares and Bow of Schwatka, the latter really a part of Tahko Lake, we reach the mouth of the "windy" arm of Tahko Lake, which I understood the Indians to call Takone.

Seventy-four and a-half miles from salt water, we reach the lower end of Tahko Lake, and reach what may be called the river proper. Here it has the volume and character of a river, being about 200 yards wide and from 6 to 12 feet deep. The country bordering the river is low.

At 79½ miles we reach Lake Marsh of Schwatka and Lake of the Mines. The immediate shore on the west side of this lake is flat and swampy, with some small timber, and the water near this shore is shallow. The easterly shore appears to be better, the hills rise at once from it and slope gently back to the mountains. On the west side it is often many miles back from the lake before a hill of any height is reached.

We enter the river again at 39 miles from salt water. The country along the shores is hilly, sometimes rocky, and covered with small timber, consisting chiefly of spruce, poplar, pitch pine and birch, but very little of it is fit for anything but fuel.

The river is from 150 to 200 yards wide, with a current of about four miles an hour; it is generally very crooked.

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