

REPORT  
OF THE  
MISTASSINI EXPEDITION,  
1884-5.

BY  
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According to instructions, I left Ottawa June 9th, 1884, to join the Mistassini Expedition, then being fitted out in Quebec, and reported there, June 12th, to Mr. John Bignell, in charge. I remained in Quebec, awaiting the departure of the party, until July 19th, when we proceeded to Rimouski, and were there again obliged to wait for the schooner engaged to transport the outfit from Quebec to Betsiamites, which did not arrive at Rimouski until the 25th, when we crossed to Betsiamites or Bersimis.

On account of further delay in engaging Indians and preparing the outfit, it was not until August 8th that I started, with one canoe and two men, up the Betsiamites River, in advance of the main party, for the purpose of making an examination of the rocks along the river as far as Lake Pimouakin, where Mr. Bignell was to commence his survey. Betsiamites or Bersimis River.

We proceeded up the river and reached the first fall on the 11th, the distance being about forty-five miles in a north-west course. The river has been navigated to this point by a small steamer belonging to the lumber mill situated at its mouth.

The river valley, cut in the surrounding table-land, varies from a quarter of a mile to one mile in width. Its sides are formed by Laurentian hills, elevated from two to six hundred feet above the stream. These hills are well wooded with white and black spruce, tamarac, balsam-poplar and birch, and quantities of valuable timber are taken out every year, and cut up by the steam mill at the mouth of the river. The valley has been partly filled up by deposits of glacial drift, as the banks of the river are, for the most part, of sand Timber.