

Lake, reaching the latter about half a mile below the old landing. Three miles from the landing a sharp descent of 700 feet was made over the face of an escarpment running parallel with the lake.

Tacla Lake is one of those long narrow bodies of water so prevalent throughout British Columbia. It occupies a great longitudinal valley, running parallel with that at the western base of the Rocky Mountains which now holds the Finlay and Parsnip. The two valleys are separated by about eighty miles of rough mountainous country.

Tacla Lake was not examined except for three or four miles south of the landing. It is from two to three miles in width, and is bordered on both sides by heavily timbered flats several miles wide. It is separated from Babine Lake, which occupies a somewhat similar valley farther to the west, by the Fire-pan Mountains.

The most notable feature of the country in the latitude of the Omenica and Finlay rivers, or from latitude  $55^{\circ} 30'$  to latitude  $57^{\circ}$  or beyond, is its universal mountainous character. In this latitude, the whole country from the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains westward to the Pacific Ocean is destitute of plains of any considerable extent, and with the exception of the breaks where the region is crossed by the valleys mentioned above, is covered with a succession of mountains and mountain ranges varying in height from 3000 to 5000 feet above the valleys. In no other part of British Columbia is the country so persistently mountainous across the whole Cordilleran belt.

#### *Finlay River.*

The Finlay River is named after John Finlay, who ascended it in 1824 in the interests of the North-west Company. The journal kept by Mr. Finlay on this journey has never been published. It is now at Cumberland House in the possession of Mr. James McDougall of the Hudson Bay Co., where it was seen and some extracts taken from it by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell in 1894. Miners are also reported to have ascended the river to varying distances during the Omenica excitement, and in 1891 an exploring expedition sent by the British Columbia Government ascended it to Fort Grahame a distance of about forty-five miles.

The Finlay River is much the larger of the two streams which form Peace River, and is practically the upper part of that river. It has a

Mountainous country.

Previous exploration.

General character of Finlay River.