## Bygone Days of British Columbia

## THE FOUNDING OF THE YUKON

BY R. E. GOSNELL

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Yukon and the now adjoining districts flow in a northeasterly direction, find of Stikine and Cassiar, and Alaska, was their way into the Mackensie river, Company as a promising field for furs. Arctic ocean; the Yukon and its tributhe Chilkat Indians from the coast, in the eastern side were two forts, which flow northwesterly into On the eastern side were two forts, Halkett on the Lower Liard, and Fort the ocean at about 65 N. Lat. Broadly and the Mackenzie. On the west the the vicinity of Dease lake. It took a as previously stated, they had long Russians had possession of Russian- long time to determine the courses of acted as intermediaries. It was never America, which was exploited by them simply for fur-trading purposes in much the same way as the rest of the vast extent of north and west country vast extent of north and west country rivers, such as the Pelly and the Lewes. was exploited by the Hudson's Bay It has important tributaries, such as Company. To the south of the Russians the British company had built cupine, etc. It was along these diffidenced in the following year; Fort Fran-House, and gladly discerning from the forts at various points along the coast. | cult, turbulent water stretches that the kenzie and the Alaskan coast was wide, various divides that separated them to physically very difficult to traverse, reach the almost inaccessible outposts States, or Alaskan precincts, the reprewas unknown to white men, and contained many tribes of Indians, strang-tained many tribes of Indians, strangers to the pale face traders, and, as it in my last contribution) that it took turned out, anything but easy to deal seven years in which to receive goods with. It was a country rich in furs via Hudson's Bay and place the furs and, what was important to the fur-traders, had plenty of fresh meat and

Commercial Conditions and the Alaska Boundary,

Fur Company knew it was only a mat-

ter of time when its own territory

would be invaded by the enterprising

Key of the Situation

lated, if not in exact legal phraseology

-because we know there was finally

and was recognized without protest al-

navigate, the company lodged a com-

The Yukon in Outline.

at an end.

wide to prevent.

strip on their maps in the way they snowshoes.

The territory since comprising the the Liard and its tributaries, which | Liard and Frances lake, and was afterlong coveted by the Hudson's Bay which again finally debouches into the on at the junction of the Llard speaking, they all find their sources in between whom and the white traders, The country lying between the Mac- fur-traders had to follow, crossing the kon carried on until 1869, when having dark pines that their people were still

The Founding of Forts.

Fort Yukon was one of these out-Fort Yukon was one of these outposts. It was founded in 1847 by A. H. the Yukon." Having been also request-The management of the Hudson's Murray, on the Yukon river, just about ed to send some drawings of the coun-Bay Company at an early date was its confluence with the Porcupine river. anxious to get a foothold in it and The journal to which I am about to re-

the Alaskan coast dwelt the fierce Chil- But before entering upon the story apparent from the reproductions, they kats, who were the middlemen of the of Murray, a few notes explanatory of were very good indeed, particularly fur trade. The interior Indians were the founding of other forts will be use- considering his facilities for making not permitted, under pain of death, to ful. The company made attempts from them. The starting point was Fort come to the tidal waters to sell furs: the Stikine and the eastern side of the Simpson, Peel's river on the 11th June, met on and beyond the mountains about the same time. I 1847, for Lapiere's House, His party divide by the Chilkats, who purchased have already referred to the failure to consisted of Mr. J. McKenzie, eight their stock in trade and resold to the establish a post at the mouth of the men and one woman, accompa Russians. It was a monopoly they en- Stikine, owing to the hostility of the two of the Peel's river men and four joyed for many years, and one which Russians. The latter built a post them Indians to assist in carrying part of

Fort Macpherson, June, 1847.

from the outset. Curiously enough this the lease was effected in 1837, was | and barley you sent for seed, and an

commercial condition accounted for the transferred to the Hudson's Bay Comterms of the treaty by which the Alaskan boundary was determined. At the kine by Sir James Douglas. Fort Durand "God bless yous" having been ex-

kan boundary was determined. At the time by Sir James Douglas, the time it was concluded—1825—the Hudham, sometimes named Fort Taku, was changed, they struck into the labyrinth of swamps and lakes that lay between

d in New Caledonia and Oregon, and Douglas Island, but was abandoned in them and the distant hills. The low,

Stikine and Dease Lake Districts.

that the monopoly of the Yukon trade, of the Stikine in 1834. He discovered

the inlets of the now Alaskan territory. Hence in making the treaty they stipu-

ing control of the heads of of the Stikine, where it was maintained

terms—in effect, for a strip of territory perience there was of the most trying ing

Stikine, but the attempt to establish and the Yukon is almost entirely due.

of Russian - American territory was leased for a term to the British traders for a consideration in furs per annum, and their troubles on that score were

If you look at a map of the Yukon route from Fort Selkirk to Fort Simp-

its tributaries, which flow in a south- much preferable, as being less arduous

ly opposite directions. The Stikine and when it was discovered that it was aging.

was free to subjects of both nations to but left little of his life's story.

and vigorous Britishers, and realized the Mackenzie, reached the upper part walkers, and an Indian, started ahead,

character the men being obliged to eat

traders reaching the interior Indians by their parchment windows, and, finally, Notwithstanding they were "en foot"

treaty was signed they marked that were reduced to the lacing of their distance before breakfast. This day

most to the last. It turned out as these willy Russians anticipated. The Hudday, was built in 1848 by this same day, was built in 1848 by this same

son's Bay Company made a hard fight Robert Campbell, who had previously down a snow bank, the bottom was

to calture the trade from its eastern constructed Frances Lake House in posts on the Mackenzie and Liard, but 1840 or 1841, and Fort Pelly Banks in that part of the winter road known as

J. Bell, another of the craft, reached

and saw the great river into which

it flows, and was informed by the In-

dians that the name was "Youcon." The

you will find a series of water sys-tems or stretches which go in oblique-was afterwards taken by Campbell, dian were still on the bank, and the experience of Manuel was not encour-

westerly direction to the Pacific ocean; and dangerous than by way of the The resourcefulness of the Hudson's

In the Yukon.

Forts Selkirk and Yukon. Fort Selkirk was in 1852 raided by opoly of trade with the interior Indians,

career in the Yukon. Murray's Journal.

Coming back to the journal of Mr. Murray. He sets out by request "to anxious to get a foothold in it and share the trade which went to the Russian theoretic country as it was in those days.

The journal to which I am a describes the "going on their third year and filed down to stumps," although, as will be they guarded with extreme vigilance selves, named Dionysius, which, when the things, "particularly the potatoes

middle in sludge and water. Having safely arrived on higher ground, Mr.

Sunk in the water."

they ascended the Rocky mountains by

a zig-zag route, and made the descent

sent forth a stream, and what appeared

Fording the River.

J. M. McLeod, coming overland from Murray, with Manuel, the best of his

Fort Selkirk, in the Yukon proper, the on the other side, "slipping, scrambling,

Bay Company men in extremity is here and smoking for half an hour we hur- many tribes of Indians not too favorillustrated. Murray had a "lumber line," to one end of which he fastened a stone. This he flung across to Manuel, and the other end he fastened on at a great rate to the southwest beround his body, and the process of navigation is seen in the accompanying upper end we joined the main channel good-sized trees stripped of their bark, would not encourage any of the Indians illustration. Here their troubles commenced anew. The whole afternoon was spent in wandering amongst the mountains. After climbing to the top of one they saw no possibility of proceeding further in that direction, "nothing to be seen but towering mountains and fearful precipices, and deep ravines covered with eternal snow,' and, wet to the skin, with clothes saturated with perspiration, they preferred, though late, to retrace the r steps to the point on the bank of the river only a short distance below where they crossed, farther away from Lapiere's

House than the night before. Coming to Lapiere's House.

The next day they kept along the west bank of the river, and after going doned in the following year; Fort Fran-ces was abandoned in 1851. Fort Yu-blue, curling smoke in the clump of been ascertained to be within United safe. Great fears had been expressed by Mrs. Murray, who, with the women and three men stationed there, were

> On the 15th Mr. Murray speaks of spending the forenoon in talking with Youcon," who were awaiting his arrival. From these Indians he heard of the Russians being at the Youcon the previous summer, and here he adds, "Were Indians at Lapiere's house supplied furs from almost before our doors, inon's Bay Company can supply the articles these Indians require as well as

Here one by one the remaining meming Friday," says Murray, "several another day's repose) deferred starting until Saturday, but it could not be al-

Down the Porcupine,

The journal for the next eight days s made up mainly of the record of which they went from Lapiere's house to the Youcon, the details of which are square a log and it was but seldom Murray, en route, makes a very inter-esting sketch of the ramparts on Por-the fort had to be brought over by a ndian tribes.

The distance from Lapiere's house to the Youcon he estimated at 452 miles. At the end as he sat and smoked his formed great ideas of the country, he pipe, his face besmeared with tobacco juice to keep at bay the "d-d mosquihim ,his first impressions of the Youcon were anything but favorable. He all things considered, they had a very knives, "and a few of them only got had built, or was building. Fort Vancouver, as headquarters of its western
department. The Russian - American

1843. I refer to these facts as the earliest attempts to get into the Yukon from
the coast side.

1843. I refer to these facts as the earliest attempts to get into the Yukon from
the way knee deep, and often to the
coast side.

1843. I refer to these facts as the earlisable state, and they waded most of
the way knee deep, and often to the for building, the water abominably dirty and the current furious. His chief shown in the illustration. The weather complaint, however, was the mosqui-toes. He remarks that he had been in intending to reach Lapiere's House in the swamps of Lake Ponchartrain and the thermometer stood 90 degrees above the Balize, and along the Red river zero. "We were seldom without visiwhich it enjoyed by reason of the and named Dease lake and river after agency of the coast Indians, might be reason of the and named Dease lake and river after three days," so as to have my letters answered and things in order, that the (Texas), and most parts of "Guillinipseriously disturbed. The Russians likewise knew the difficulty of reaching

er. His farthest point was Tooya river.
Another attempt was made from Fort
wise knew the difficulty of reaching answered and things in order, that the
voyage might not be delayed on that
account"; showing how strenuous the seriously disturbed. The Russians likewise knew the difficulty of reaching the interior Indians from the hinter-the interior Indians from the hinter-the interior Indians from the Hudson's land and were confident the Hudson's land and the interior Indians from the hinterland, and were confident the Hudson's
Bay Company operating from that side
Bay Company operating from that side
Was. Each man carried forty pounds,
at rade on the Stikine, but miscarried.
Was. Each man carried forty pounds,
exclusive of provisions. After a few
hours the Indian became "fagged," and
setablished at a point on the east side

Indians from the initiation in the sate of Hudson's Bay Company men
was. Each man carried forty pounds,
exclusive of provisions. After a few
hours the Indian became "fagged," and
setablished at a point on the east side established at a point on the east side Murray relieved him of his blanket. It

until 1874, then moved to near Glenora, reached a place with sufficient brush to The second day out on the Porcupine make a fire and camp for the night. they were hailed by some Indians who Robt. Campbell, the intrepid explorer Murray describes how he had stiffness were preparing a feast for the Youcon and trader, in 1838 succeeded in estab- in his joints, occasioned by fatigue and Indians-to wit, a lot of muskrats, a dispute as to the construction of the lishing a post at Dease lake. His ex- lack of sleep, "from my moss bed havmoose fat, wild onions-in a vessel made of birch bark. They had a small quantity of excellent dried meat, which was traded for ammunition and togoing up the inlets. As soon as the in abandoning the post in 1839, they again at 7 a. m., making considerable

bacco. Indians En Route.

On the 21st of April they crossed the Boundary line, Murray speaks of a range of high but smooth mountains where the reindeer resort in immense numbers, called by the Indians the 'Carribeux mountains." country of the "Vanta Kootchin" (men of the lake), a band of first-rate felit was an uphill game. It was also proposed to reach the Yukon by way of the that the exploration of the Upper Liard

1843. It was to him, says Dr. Dawson, that the exploration of the Upper Liard season with water, every snow bank large), numbering about 40 men. At a fort at the mouth was forcibly pre-vented by the Russians. As the Sti-vented by the Russians. As the Stikine, under the terms of the treaty, lived to a good old age in Manitoba, be most formidable, and Murray, "and they did not quarrels seem to be, over a woman, derneath a human mass, and the diffiplaint with the British government. The outcome was that the coast strip across the mountains, and descended The illustration entitled "Crossing Bell's River," gives a very good idea of good swimmers, and it was strange for Geese and ducks were always passing,

will pass; willow poles are placed in down the river, and who were inclined of the deceased. They told us, by what than the English, on account, of course, marks I know not, that it was an old of the longer intercourse in trade. man that had died. . . At this time a thick smoke was noticed to the south,

ing that there was nobody there and be finished before the next fall. specting the river. . . Not expectage a commercial establishment worthy of ing us they were afraid when they first any part of the western department.

where. In the meantime a pleasant | tribes, and Murray expresses his as- | in the report on the French army encampment was formed containing no tonishment at the population of the budget. Rusisa, France, Austria, Itless than six dwelling houses, all built country, and also expresses satisfaction aly, Germany and Great Britain towith Russian goods, and taking their on the Sabbath, "for which," Murray with the richness of the fur trade. The gether are spending a thousand million furs from almost before our doors, intending to dispose of them to the Rus- able." They were made of willow poles the fort numbered about ninety men, ing machines. Together they can put sians this summer," surely the Hud-son's Bay Company can supply the ar-cording to the fancy of their owners. They soon had all visited the traders, But they want to put still more. They Besides the house there was a log and brought their furs, principally want to make war, if it ever comes the Russian-American Trading Com- store, a cabin containing dried fish, two beaver and martens. Beads and guns again, many times more infernal than more scaffolds, and above all things, were always demanded, and Murray it has ever been. While their philosoa garden measuring 12 feet by 8. The had few to give them. Plainly the In- phers are faintly expressing the hope bers of the party kept dropping in all garden was prepared and fenced, and dians were not satisfied with them, that the world has seen the last of safe and sound. On the 18th "this be- on the 1st of July a few potatoes were saying that when they went to trade sack and carnage, their warriors are planted. Although Mr. Murray regard- with the Russians they got what they shouting for more money to spend on hints were thrown out by the men (they no doubt expecting to be allowed to specific they no doubt expecting to be allowed to specific they no doubt expecting to be allowed to specific the respected at that advanced powder horns and files went off readily international fratricide. The noble lords season the "crop" would be brought out enough, but it was hard to dispose of applaud fiery "Little Bobs," Germany at maturity; his object was to preserve the cloth as the Indians considered adds \$13,000,000 to her yearly stakes, their dress much superior to ours, both | making a grand total of \$210,000,000. in beauty and durability, and, adds France is worrying about her eligibles. Murray, "they are partly right, though Her army is smaller than Germany's, I endeavored to persuade them to the thought she has fully 430,000 men uncontrary." Murray describes in an interesting way the principal arrivals during the rate is falling in France. A smaller ter-Carrier," chief of the Vanta Koot- is coming in every twelve-month to chin (people of the lakes), arrived with cheer mankind, and, worse luck,

by a twenty men. The "Letter-Carrier" was smaller number of prospective soldiers. a well-known Indian at Peel's river. They brought some dried meat, geese tunately-to prepare for war, but what and Babiche, but their principal object a power for good that billion a year was to get ammunition and see the site | would be if, for instance, it could safeof the fort. Indians are always anxious ly be utilized to drill those 31,000,000 to get credit for goods, and these were no exception to the rule. In this case, Journal. however, what they brought in was paid for in ammunition, tobacco and credit, though they all asked for it." An Exciting Incident.

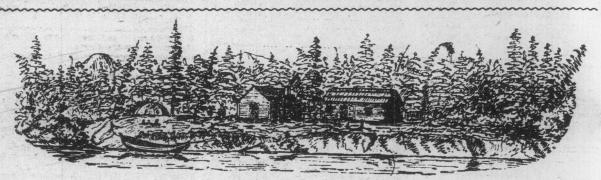
Murray describes a rather exciting scene as follows: "The Yukon chief and crash, and the occupants were mixed

latticed in a solid frame towards the Bay Company would profit very much Arriving at the junction of Porcupine top and the same with the foundation. by sending musquash to England from and the Youcon on Friday, June 25th, The bastions were planned to be made the Youcon, in which he was probably the party began exploring for a suit- as strong as possible, roomy and con- wise,

AN EXPENSIVE GAME.

It costs six European nations \$1,000. yards parallel with the river, and 90 nal is taken up with the description of 000,000 a year to prepare for war while yards in width. It had many evident the Indian tribes, their customs, and protesting that they want nothing but dvantages over other places, and im- the manner of trading with them. They peace. Moreover, instead of decreasing, mediately a decision was arrived at had no sooner set down to make a per- the cost of this martial preparedness is

they set to work getting ready to build manent habitation than they were all the time increasing. a fort, the plan of which is given else- visited by representatives of various The plain, if not brutal, facts appear



Trade With the Indians.

A very large part of Murray's jour-

Lapiere's House, in 1847.

seed for the ensuing summer.

Building Operations.

Murray says, answered well except for please."

the scarcity of timber. It was on a ridge of dry land, extending about 300

able site for the fort. After a great deal of difficulty one was chosen which, Russians may advance when they d—d

Weather and Game.

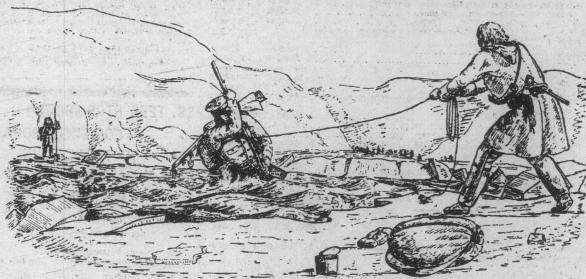
On July 1st regular operations were begun, but proceeded very slowly. bearings of the Porcupine river, down Most of them were Orkney men, green square a log, and it was but seldom extremely uninviting, except that Mr. but some of them were not off duty by cupine river, and a few pen sketches of circuitous route from an island threequarters of a mile, and more time was ccupied in bringing it than in cutting and squaring. Murray, already having determined on building a fort worthy of it, and as history goes to show, it toes" still hovering in clouds around was the most permanent fort in the entire northern country. Apparently, stantial fort according to the plan was generally fine with the month of his brother were here when the band up with each other on the cold cause-July oppressively warm. On July 10th arrived next day. They had a row way.

der the colors at the present time, not counting the volunteers. But the birth mmer. On the 6th of July the "Let- number of prospective poets and priests

It is right-it is necessary, men in the arts of peace!-Boston

ADVENTURES OF 46-STONE LADY.

A cab was seen to swerve on the car rails in one of Glasgow's busiest streets



Murray Crossing, Bell's River.

Fort Yukon Described. The building and other work were

tive, and gave us much information re- management and hard work to erect when they all left and allowed us to saw us, which was the reason they did Murray was evidently a man who not wish us to come on shore. The planned well, and carried out his work

of the flat of the fall. Murray results and died of starvation, his bones being and died of starvation, his bones being often come empty-handed. We had allow of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. The United Starvation of the 'Letter-Carrier's' party had culty was to extricate them. Upper-difficulties with which they proceeded. Bell's River," gives a very good idea of how the river was forded. Manuel, it appears, entered it without hesitation, but, after getting about two-thirds across, lost his footing and was carried down stream. The current, fortunately took him to the other side.

Speaking of another point further side and the proverbially so that none were allowed to weary. Geese and ducks were always passing, and now and then a beaver would clap his tall 'en passant' before our levee. The woods behind abounded in rabbits and partridges, and go which way one would if a good shot he read not was miss Lucy Moore, a 46-stone lady who was exhibiting at Pickand's museum; underneath were two of her and now and then a beaver would clap his tall 'en passant' before our levee. The woods behind abounded in rabbits and partridges, and go which way one would if a good shot he read not was miss Lucy Moore, a 46-stone lady who was exhibiting at Pickand's museum; underneath were two of her the onlooker; it was a serious position for the attendants. It was an amusing scene for the onlooker; it was a serious position for the attendants. "Help!" one would if a good shot he read not was willed her. The chief demanded payment in beads for his sister's death, which was for the original partridges, and go which way one was exhibiting at Pickand's museum; underneath were two of her the original partridges, and go which way one was exhibiting at Pickand's museum; underneath were two of the original partridges, and go which was miss Lucy Moore, a 46-stone lady who was exhibiting at Pickand's museum; underneath were two of the original partridges, and go which was miss Lucy Moore, a 46-stone lady who was exhibiting at Pickand's museum; underneath were two of the original partridges, and go which was miss Lucy Moore, a 46-stone lady who was exhibiting the chief, and he heard that they had killed her. The chief demanded payment in beads for his sister's death, which was miss Lucy Moore, a 46-stone lady who was exhibiting the chief, and he heard that they ha walked boldly up to the other, who would soon have cut him to pieces but dian were still on the bank, and the experience of Manuel was not encourage, which the Indians hurried, and information. which the Indians hurried, and informed us that it was a 'death fire.' It is ed us that it was a 'death fire.' It is the point or a nocturnal visit from the custom of those Indians when any of them die to make a fire at a public place where they know their friends the point or a nocturnal visit from the custom of those Indians when any of them die to make a fire at a public place where they know their friends the point or a nocturnal visit from the trunderstanding—the woman had not tackle the raising of Miss Moore. A tackle the raising of weeting, were arraid to the case, brought matters to a better understanding—the woman had not tackle the raising of Miss Moore. A tackle t "Letter-Carrier' made the brother a perhaps, that the corporation tramway the ground, on which is hung the hair to be more friendly to the Russians of the deceased. The deceased many the hair to be more friendly to the Russians value to the brother at the brot again restored. They remained here about 600, and willing hands went to four days, during which time a party the rescue of the now exhausted atof Yukon Indians arrived, and we witnessed some of their great dances and pairs of hands assisted in raising Miss which was supposed to be a signal fire, which hastened their departure."

The building and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, trushed forward as quickly as possible, trushed and bruised attendance with the dwelling house was completed tribes. Such a dancing and singing, with her crushed and bruised attendance and tribes. Such a dancing and singing, with her crushed and bruised attendance and tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and singing and other work were rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes. Such a dancing and other work were rushed and bruised and tribes and tribes and tribes and tribes and tribes are rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes and tribes are rushed forward as quickly as possible, tribes are rushed fo about the end of August, the roof and leaping and wrestling, whooping and ants, driven off amid cheers. As they reached the end of their walls of the store was finished on Oc- yelling I have never heard before or journey, on rounding a point, they saw tober 25th. When the fort was finished since. This was always persevered in her exciting experience, but the atfour Indians on the south bank, who Murray calculated that it would be the through the night, and although amus- tendants were scarcely so fortunately fired two shots. These Indians were best and strongest fort, except Fort ing to us at first, by being continued placed. uncommunicative, and apparently did Simpson, between the Red river and not want the voyageurs to land, stat- the Polar sea, but was not expected to sleep at night for the noise they made. Though requested by the men I would nothing to eat. On going ashore, however, they found the carcass of a large as to the dimensions of the house, the moose just killed. "After each receiving a small place of tobacco, and being of but little interest in this connection carrying on their game in our camp. told the object of our coming to the except to show that in this most north- They said they had not been so happy country they became more communica- erly post it was possible with skilled for many years. We were heartily glad

Musquash.

for nowder and ball and after talking not only to anticipate trouble from called at Peel's River, bringing marten, reduced,

By this time the crowd numbered tendants. With a "Heave ho!" many

Miss Moore was little the worse for

It is stated the repairs to the Mauretania, just completed at Liverpool, have cost about \$25,000, and are remarkable in the history of ship repairing. Her turbines have been completely overhauled, her internal fittings repolished, the damaged stern renewed, and the forward port bracket, a forging weighing 25 tons, replaced. new propellers are fixed

As a result of the rearrangement of the propellers it is believed by experts that the speed of the Mauretania will Murray tells of a number of the liat be increased by at least half a knot, fresh meat was now willingly traded with great care in detail. As he had Indians, as the men of the lakes are and the vibration of the vessel sensibly

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