

There are two good places for bridging the river some three miles below the Canoe River, the Columbia at those two points being about 120 and 175 feet in width; thick growth of timber on both sides of river. The easterly bank of river best for a road, as with the exception of two short points of rock, a road can be carried over low flats and benches the whole distance. The opposite side does not offer any serious obstacles to road building, but to construct one along it would be much more expensive.

Thursday, September 13th.—Ran down to Wilson's Landing, a distance of about 7 or 8 miles; passed several rapids, which would be bad for steamboat navigation, and lines would be required to get steamers over them. There is a steep, rocky bluff on the left bank of the river, a short distance above Wilson's Landing, and would be expensive to take a road around. I took the latitude of Wilson's Landing, which I made 51° 40' N. I here learnt that the Officer administering the Government, the Surveyor-General, and Mr. Ball would camp this evening at Kirby's Landing, I therefore ran down the river to that point, where I met them.

*(Extract from Report of Mr. Moberly on Illecillewaunt River,
December 18th, 1865.)*

On leaving Mr. Turnbull at the mouth of this stream, I proceed up its northerly or right bank, for a distance of about forty miles, at which point the river divides into two streams of nearly equal size, the general bearing of one valley above the forks, as far as can be seen from that point, being north 14° east; that of the other nearly east. The latter valley was evidently the one that, judging from its general bearing, would be most likely to afford a pass in the direction wished for. I therefore tried to induce the Indians I had with me, by every possible persuasion, to accompany me all the way across the Selkirk Range, and make for Wild Horse Creek. (The Columbia River Indians would from the first only engage to go as far as the head waters of the Illecillewaunt.) All my efforts were, however, unavailing, as they affirmed that if we went on we should be caught in the snow, and never get out of the mountains. As I now found it would not be possible to complete the exploration of the easterly branch so as to arrive at a definite conclusion as to its suitability for a line of road throughout to the Upper Columbia, and as a partial exploration would only be a waste of time and money, for should it be explored throughout at any future time, which I would recommend, the same ground would have to be traversed again, I decided to explore the northerly fork, and accordingly continued my journey, still keeping on the right hand bank until I reached a point about seventy miles from the mouth of the main river. The valley, which had been continually turning more and more to the north, took a decided turn at the above point, its