

REPORT
ON AN EXPLORATION OF THE
FINLAY AND OMENICA RIVERS

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The following report on the Omenica and Finlay rivers is based on an exploration carried out during the year 1893. Quesnel, on the Fraser, was selected as the base of operations. That point was reached on the 24th of May, but owing to the scarcity of competent canoemen, and to delays in obtaining transport for supplies to Fort McLeod, we were detained there until the 9th of June. The party consisted, besides myself, of Mr. H. Y. Russel, who acted as topographer, and four canoemen (two Indians, one half-breed, and one white man). From Quesnel we proceeded up the Fraser River to the Giscome Portage, where we arrived on the 23rd of June. A portage-road here, seven miles and a half in length, connects the Fraser River with Summit Lake, one of the sources of Peace River. The portage was made in two days and a half. From Summit Lake we followed a chain of small lakes connected by small, crooked, and at times exceedingly swift streams down to Fort McLeod, which we reached on the 28th of June. Our supplies, which had been sent overland by pack-train from Quesnel, were delayed owing to the flooded condition of the rivers, and did not arrive until a week later. On the 6th of July we started down McLeod Lake River and the Parsnip, carrying our summer's supplies, in two Peterborough canoes, and a canvas canoe which we had fitted up while waiting at Fort McLeod. The mouth of the Parsnip, our objective point, was reached on the following day.*

Preparations
for the journey.

Route followed.

The Parsnip, coming from the south, and the Finlay from the north-west, meet near the western base of the Rocky Mountains, and the united streams, bending to the east, break through that range and traverse the great central plain of the continent in a northerly direction under the various names of Peace, Slave and Mackenzie rivers.

*The route followed from Giscome Portage to the mouth of the Parsnip, was examined by Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn in 1875, and is described by him in the report of the Geological Survey for that year, pp. 37-41 and 64-67.