

DISTANCE.	Miles.
Edmonton to Athabasca Landing	90
Athabasca Landing to Grand Rapids .....	167
Grand Rapids to Fort McMurray	87
Fort McMurray to Smith Landing	287
Smith Landing to Fort Smith....	16
Fort Smith to Fort Resolution....	191
Fort Resolution to Fort Providence .....	168
Fort Providence to Fort Simpson	161
Fort Simpson to Fort Wrigley....	136
Fort Wrigley to Fort Norman....	181
Fort Norman to Fort Good Hope	174
Fort Good Hope to Fort Macpherson .....	250
Fort Macpherson to La Pierre's House .....	60
La Pierre's House to the Porcupine	20
Porcupine to the Yukon.....	490
Total .....	2,421

It may be well to remark that, though the Hudson's Bay Company have steamers running on the Mackenzie River from and to Fort Macpherson, these boats are solely for the use of the company, and do not carry passengers.

**The LIARD ROUTE.**

The starting point is from Calgary to Edmonton, a distance of 200 miles by rail. From Edmonton to the Peace River Crossing is a distance of 260 miles. There is a wagon road through St. Albert to Athabasca River, and from thence to Lesser Slave Lake is an old pack trail. To the crossing from Lesser Slave Lake, a distance of 70 miles, there is a wagon road in good condition.

Leaving Peace River Crossing, where there is a settlement, the river is crossed by boat, and a good trail leads to Pine River, 100 miles from the crossing. From Pine River the objective point is the forks of the Nelson River, (140 miles), through a country, which, judging from all accounts, is practicable for pack horses. In any case another route from Pine River is via Fort St. John and Halfway River, which would make the distance from Edmonton to Nelson River 500 miles.

From the forks of the Nelson to the Liard River, there is good navigation. Supplies can be rafted down, and the country is passable for horses. The junction of the Liard and Nelson is 620 miles from Edmonton.

The Liard is then ascended past Fort Holoett to the mouth of the Dease 160 miles, through a country with good grass and timber. The pass through the Rockies offers no difficulty and feed for animals is in plenty the whole distance.

From Dease River to the Pelly, via Lake Francis, is a distance of 170 miles, including a long portage over the watershed between the Pelly and the Laird. This distance was traversed by

Professor Dawson in 1887, and is described as a rolling country with good grass.

The Pelly River is one of the main branches of the Yukon, and when this point is once reached by means of Lake Francis, the remainder of the journey is all down stream to the gold fields. The distance to the Klondike is 420 miles, and with the exception of two rapids affords good navigation. The first of the above rapids, at the Hoole River, can be traversed in safety, but the second 10 miles further down, must be crossed by means of a portage, half a mile in length. The country is described as not at all rough with thick timber and grass.

This Liard route is through an auriferous country, which has never been prospected. The Athabasca, Peace and Pelly Rivers are all gold-bearing, and it is not at all improbable that travelers seeking to get into the Klondike country this way, may make rich finds on the road.

**DISTANCE.**

Edmonton to Peace River Crossing .....	260
Peace River to Nelson Forks.....	240
Down Nelson to Junction with Liard .....	120
Up Liard to Dease River.....	160
Dease River to Pelly River.....	170
Pelly River to Junction with Lewes .....	220
Lewes River to Klondike.....	200
Total.....	1,370

**THE BITER BIT.**

The true story of the salting of the Chrysolite mine was related by August Riche, one of the discoverers of the Little Pittsburg, says the Denver "Times." Riche had conveyed his interest in the Pittsburg to Ex-Senator Tabor, but remained as superintendent of the property for some time after the transfer. Chicken Bill owned an interest in the adjoining claim, since known to fame as the Chrysolite, which he desired to unlead on Tabor. The wealth of the Pittsburg had already become known, but Chicken Bill had little confidence that the rich ore bodies extended into his claim. He had gone down below the levels in which it had been uncovered in the adjoining claim without discovering any values, and he shrewdly calculated that the deeper he drove the shaft with t proving the continuity of the Pittsburg vein the more difficult it would be for him to sell the property or secure money to develop it. But Chicken Bill was not wanting in resource, and he didn't intend to allow the worthlessness of his claim to prevent him from selling it. "Bleeding the old man" he considered perfectly legitimate, and

Bill's conscience remained comatose while his mind was encephalic with a scheme to sell the Chrysolite.

Bill had been a good friend to Riche in his adversity, and had never asked a favor in return. Hence he felt himself to appeal to him in this emergency, which he did with complete success. Going to the overflowing ore bins of the Pittsburg one day, he asked Riche to give him a shovelful of the rich ore that had just come out of the shaft. "Of course," responded Riche, "take all you want of it: a wagon load if you like." Bill assured him that a few shovelfuls would answer every purpose, and it did. Tabor wouldn't agree to purchase Bill's interest until he had made a personal examination and sampled the ore. No objection was made to this reasonable proposition, and the assays from his own samples proving that the mineral was quite as rich as the Pittsburg, and singularly like it, he speedily closed the deal and paid Bill for his interest.

Tabor put on a force of men, and within a fortnight one of the largest bodies of carbonate ever discovered on Freyer hill was uncovered. When Chicken Bill stopped sinking, the bottom of the shaft, which he had so skilfully salted with the borrowed ore from the Pittsburg, was within a few feet of the big bonanza. Subsequently the property was capitalised for \$10,000,000, and its total yield proved that the capitalisation was not excessive. Nearly that amount of values has since been taken from it. Chicken Bill received the paltry sum of \$2,500 for a holding that would have made him a millionaire if he had not preferred to trick Tabor into buying it.

Another odd phase of the story as related by Riche, is that a few days after Bill had sold his interest, Tabor approached Riche, and informing him of his purchase, suggested that he would let him in on the ground floor, and sell to him half the interest he had bought from Chicken Bill for what it had cost him. Of course Riche knew all about the salting of the mine, and had a full knowledge of the amount realised by Bill, but he assumed innocence, and asked Tabor what he would take for the half of the purchase. Tabor named the price paid for the whole, but Riche declined the proposition, saying he believed he had about all the mining property on Freyer Hill that he wanted. It was doubtless the fact that neither Riche nor Tabor had much, if any, more confidence in good values being discovered in the Chrysolite than had Chicken Bill. All have since enjoyed a large degree of fame for their knowledge of mineralogy, and the science of mining, and all that sort of thing, yet not one of them dreamed he was bartering for a song a property that has had few equals as a producer.