

few inches of the surface, being protected from the rays of the sun by a non-conductive carpet of sphagnum. Wherever there is a slight elevation of ground in all this watery waste the wretched natives have located their villages, the dwellings consisting of excavations in the ground roofed over with mounds of sods. Here they fish during the summer, and hunt the mink and the moose in the winter."

The following is the latest account of the proceedings of Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, Chief Dominion Surveyor, who is engaged in delimiting the international boundary between Alaska and the North-west Territories of Canada. The particulars were sent by Mr. Albert M'Kay, one of Mr. Ogilvie's staff, to a friend in Calgary. In his letter he explains to his friend that at Fort Cudahy, where he was writing, June 24th, 1896, only three mails are received *per annum*. His letter only reached Calgary in August. It says:—

"Mr. Ogilvie's party left Victoria, B.C., 9th July 1895. They had along with them three cedar, lightly-built Peterboro' canoes; these they packed, along with their baggage, from Taiya (the head of navigation) *via* Chilcoot Pass to the headwaters of the Yukon at Lake Lindeman, a distance of about twenty-five miles, during which they reached an altitude of 3375 feet from sea-level. Thence they proceeded from Lake Lindeman along several lakes and Lewis river. Leaving Lewis river at Fort Selkirk, they went along the Yukon to Forty Mile Creek, the distance together being 590 miles, in the canoes, with the exception of three portages, where everything had to be carried. The journey was made in twenty days.

"To find a suitable place for winter quarters Mr. Ogilvie's party went down the Yukon thirty-seven miles farther, where they built and fitted up a camp and erected an observatory. Here a number of astronomical observations were made to determine the geographical position. This Mr. Ogilvie found to be  $140^{\circ} 54' 8''$  west longitude, and  $64^{\circ} 41' 6.4''$  north latitude—a little less than two degrees south of the Arctic Circle. The line of demarcation ( $141^{\circ}$  W.) between the United States and Canada was found to be a few hundred yards farther down the Yukon. Where it crosses, the great river narrows to about 1300 feet, discharging a volume of water of 100,000 cubic feet per second."

Mr. M'Kay further writes that the long winter nights and short days passed by comfortably. The party had abundance of fresh meat, as a herd of nearly 1000 cariboo had made a *corral* for themselves at no great distance from the camp. Eighteen carcasses were speedily secured and kept frozen until required. The lowest reading of the thermometer for December 1895 was, on the 4th at dawn,  $54.1$  degrees below zero, and at 1.30 P.M.  $46.2$  degrees. On January 4th, 1896, at dawn  $62.7$  degrees, and at 1.30 P.M.  $64.2$  degrees. There were three periods of three to six days each, with the mercury in the neighbourhood of 60 degrees below zero (Fahr.).

On February 19th Mr. Ogilvie broke up camp, to carry out his instructions from Ottawa, and establish a portion of the international line between Alaska and the North-west Territories. Starting from where the line, on the 141st meridian, crosses the Yukon, he proceeded due