

borders it; and on the east the mountains rise abruptly from the lake shore,

About two miles from its head, Tagish Lake is joined by what the miners have called the Windy Arm (one of the Tagish Indians informed me they called it Takone Lake); and eight miles farther on the Tako Arm enters from the south. This arm, which is about a mile wide at its mouth or junction, must be of considerable length, as it can be seen for a long distance, and its valley can be traced through the mountains much farther than the lake itself can be seen. Except from reports from Indians, it is, so far, unknown, but it is improbable that any river of importance enters it, as it is so near the source of the waters flowing northward; however, this is a question that can only be decided by a proper exploration. Dr. Dawson seems to include the Bone Lake of Schwatka and these two arms under the common name of Tagish Lake. This is much more simple and comprehensive than the various names by which they have been heretofore designated. These waters collectively are the fishing and hunting grounds of the Tagish Indians, and, as they are really one body of water, there is no reason why they should not be included under one name. From the junction with the Tako Arm to the north end of the lake, the distance is about six miles; the greater part is over two miles wide. The west side is so flat and shallow that it was impossible in many places to get our canoes ashore, and quite a distance out in the lake there was not more than five feet of water. The members of my party who were in charge of the large boat and outfit went down the east side of the lake and reported the depth about the same as I had found on the west side, with many large rocks. They passed through it in the night in a rain storm, and were greatly alarmed for the safety of the boat and provisions.

The river, where it debouches from

the lake, is about one hundred and fifty yards wide, and for a short distance not more than five or six feet deep; this depth, however, soon increases to ten feet or more, and so continues down to Marsh Lake, a distance of about five miles.

On the east side of the river are situated the only Indian houses to be found in the interior with any pretension to skill in construction. They shew much more labor and imitativeness than one knowing anything about the Indian in his native state would expect. The plan is evidently taken from the Indian houses on the coast, which appear to me to be a poor copy of the houses which the Hudson's Bay Company's servants build around their trading posts. These houses do not appear to have been used for some time past, and are almost in ruins. The Tagish Indians are now generally on the coast, as they find it much easier to live there than in their own country. As a matter of fact, what they make in their own country is taken from them by the coast Indians, so that there is little inducement for them to remain.

Marsh Lake is a little over nineteen miles long, and would average about two miles in width. The miners call it "Mud Lake," but on this name they do not appear to be agreed, many of them calling the lower part of Tagish or Bone Lake by this name on account of its shallowness and flat muddy shores, as seen along the west side, which, being more sheltered from the prevailing southerly winds, is the one generally travelled. The name, "Mud Lake," however, is not applicable to Tagish Lake, as only a comparatively small part of it is shallow or muddy; and it is nearly as inapplicable to Marsh Lake.

At the lower end of Marsh Lake, on a jutting point of land, are situated several Indian graves, each with its small enclosure (in which, with the dead man's bones, are deposited the few trinkets he may have possessed),