

Below Fort McPherson the Peel river flows in a straight line northward for twelve miles. It then divides the eastern channel which is a travelled route and has been surveyed by Messrs. McConnell and Ogilvie into the Mackenzie river by two mouths another twelve miles beyond.

The western channel, which locally goes by the name of the Huskie river, follows along the western edge of the delta and only joins the Mackenzie waters ninety miles below. There are two large channels of the Peel river between the extreme eastern and western ones, and several smaller ones, all of which would have taken more time than was at our disposal to survey, so that a survey was only carried down the Huskie river and up one of the middle channels.

HUSKIE RIVER.

The Huskie river or western branch of the Peel, has a variable width of from 75 to 200 yards, due to the fact that it is constantly sending off and receiving tributaries from either side. Its current is about one mile per hour, and it is bordered by banks twenty-five feet in height composed of alluvial clays and sands. It is exceedingly crooked, meandering in an exasperating manner over the level floor of the delta. The banks are wooded with willow and alders, with some spruce, which latter gradually decreases in quantity northward until 125 miles below McPherson it disappears altogether.

The south branch of the Rat river, which Ogilvie mapped in 1887, flows into the Huskie river thirteen miles below Fort McPherson and it was this stream which all the prospectors followed in 1898 on their way across to the Porcupine river.

The central branch of the Rat river joins the Huskie river twenty-one miles below the south branch, and a smaller branch comes in four miles below this. A survey of this central branch was made to connect with Ogilvie's of the south branch, but the northern branch was not explored.

Sixty-three miles below Fort McPherson, the Huskie river approaches within two miles of the base of the Rocky mountains, and here an Indian hunting trail leads into the mountains. An excursion was made to the summit of Mount Goodenough (3,000'), from which a good view of the delta was obtained. Under good conditions one is able to see the Arctic ocean from here, but, owing to the hazy condition of the atmosphere, this was impossible at that time. Through the delta several channels of the Peel and Mackenzie can be seen meandering in a very crooked manner; but the most striking feature is the countless number of lakes, large and small, that cover the surface of the delta everywhere. The whole delta is flooded with water in the spring