

sketch from his own and Mr. Bell's observations of the stream. This he published, along with an account of the topography and geology of the region, in Volume XV, 1845, of the *Royal Geographical Journal*.

In the summer of 1893, the late Count V.E. de Sainville, who was then living at Fort McPherson, with one canoe and two Indians made a very good survey and map of the stream as far as the mouth of the Wind river. As a rule the natives in going up to the Wind river, leave their canoes about 75 miles above the Fort and walk straight across country to the mouth of Wind river, thus avoiding the swift water in the river and cutting off the big bend that it makes. Count de Sainville, however, followed the course of the stream the whole way up to the Bonnet Plume river, the journey occupying two weeks. At the mouth of this stream, he left his canoe and walked up the river bank about twenty-five miles, from which point he cut across to the Wind river. This he followed down to its junction with the Peel river and back again to his canoe. On his map he gives his distances, elevations, and latitudes. He also mentions the occurrence of hot springs at the mouth of the Bonnet Plume river, at which ducks and geese were said to remain all winter. He notes also the existence, between the Bonnet Plume and the Wind rivers, of lignite beds which were burning at the time, and according to Indian report had been for years before. These beds are still burning.

EARLY PROSPECTORS.

For three or four years after the placer diggings were first discovered on the Klondike river, prospectors crowded into Dawson by every possible route, and some of those who went by the Mackenzie river found their way across the mountains by the Peel River route which led them through the Bonnet Plume pass into the waters of the Stewart river. In the fall of 1898 about 90 persons who followed this route found themselves compelled to winter on the Peel river. Most of them managed to get as far up as the mouth of the Wind river, where they built their cabins and spent the winter. A cluster of deserted cabins, which stand a few miles up the Wind river from its mouth, was called by them Wind city. During the winter they hauled their outfits and supplies to the head of the Wind river and through the Bonnet Plume pass, and thence down the Hell or Rackla river to a point about twelve miles from the Beaver river, which they called Spring camp. Here on the opening of navigation, they built boats or rafts and proceeded down the Stewart river to Dawson. A few of them remained on the north side of the divide until the rivers opened up, and then took their canoes across the pass and floated down the Rackla river. Mr. Patterson of Dawson was one of the latter, and from him I got a great deal of information relative to the Bonnet