

smooth and grass covered, standing well back from the river. Then they entered a small lake on the north shore of which they pitched their camp under a rocky hill. Here there was fortunately a good supply of willow for fire wood. The prairie tract through which they had passed was sandy and dry, while near the rocks which they seem to have reached again more scrub willow is found growing in the sheltered corners where there is a little soil. The general course since leaving the Esquimaux abandoned camp "has been well to the east." The river leaves this lake at its north eastern end and is noted as consisting of alternate stretches of small lake expansions and narrow channel with strong current. There are two rapids but both were run. The series of lake and river stretches are estimated at ten miles. Beechy Lake is then entered upon and here on July 23rd the party had lunch after crossing over to the north shore. Before camping that evening they travelled eastward along the north shore of the lake about ten miles. Finding no further signs of the Esquimaux in this direction, they concluded they were on the wrong trail and decided to start again at the abandoned camp. This was done and they succeeded in finding the route by which the Esquimaux had come, viz. by a small stream from the west. They were then certain the Esquimaux were only to be found near Bathurst Inlet and as the party had not the time at their disposal to make the journey across country to the Inlet, they turned their faces homewards. The eastern route by Clinton Golden Lake, Artillery Lake and a small chain of lakes was taken to the western end of McLeods Bay, where the Companys' boat was waiting their arrival.

The first pine tree they saw on their way back was noticed on the river between Ptarmigan Lake and Artillery Lake and the first clump of pines about twenty miles down Artillery Lake. Of Artillery Lake Mr. McKinley has given a short description. "The lake lies nearly north and south, and at the northern end, in fact for most of its length, it is seven or eight miles wide. For about twenty miles the banks on both sides are prairie, but from that point the west shore is pretty thickly grown with pines of a fair size. The east bank throughout is prairie except here and there a few pines in a sheltered spot." The southern end of this lake was reached on the 13th of August and the Great Slave