

fishing for herrings. On our approach they appeared undecided whether to run or remain. I asked them for some food, and they soon provided us with some fish, which refreshed us much, and having paid for our repast, we started again. From this a small stream runs a distance of 4 miles to Stuart Lake.

Arrived at Stuart Lake, we found no means of crossing, no Indians to direct us, and no food to sustain us, nor had we any shot to enable us to kill ducks. We camped here three nights without food, sleeping the greater part of the time to stifle our hunger. The only thing that supported us was the great idea of the enterprise in which we were engaged, having been the first to explore the route from the Pacific to Fraser River.

One of our party found an old canoe split to pieces; this was rigged on a raft of logs, as well as circumstances would admit.

I returned to the Indians above mentioned, and purchased a few herrings, and walked back to our camp with difficulty, and found my limbs giving way. Next morning we started on our frail raft, expecting every moment to go down; we were obliged to sit perfectly still, as the least movement would have upset us. A slight breeze sprung up, and a small sea washed over us, and we had to run for a lee shore, where kind Providence sent an Indian to succour us. He welcomed us with a "Bonjour," invited us to his lodge, and gave us most excellent salmon-trout from the lake. We had at last reached this spot, with thankful hearts for our preservation through so many dangers. We stayed a night with this good Indian, and next day gave him a blanket to take us to the Fort. We abandoned our old canoe without regret, and proceeded towards our destination. The Indians all along this were very kind to us. About half-way across Stuart Lake we obtained a small prospect of gold. On the north side of the lake, for about 20 miles, the ground is rocky; but south, towards the Fort, the land is good, and will produce anything.

We reached Fort St. James on the 9th October, and were received by Mr. Peter Ogden with that kindness and hospitality which I have always found at the Hudson Bay Company's ports.

The Fort is very much exposed to all winds, and I found it colder than anywhere on the journey.

Stuart Lake is 50 miles long. The portage to Babine 10 miles; Babine Lake 100 miles; from Naas-Glee to Fort Simpson 250 miles, and 200 miles from Fort Simpson to Gold Harbour, Queen Charlotte Islands.

The names of the two men who accompanied me were William Manning an Englishman, and Frank Choteau a French Canadian. It is possible that I shall prospect the Fraser a little farther this fall.