

The shores for the most part are rocky, but there are many good harbours; very little vegetation, and like the Athabasca, not at all adapted for agriculture. Fish the same as in the Athabasca Lake with the addition of the 'Inconnu,' or unknown fish, and called by some the 'Arctic Salmon' and like the salmon of the Pacific coast, ascend the river in summer until stopped by some obstruction which they cannot surmount.—the Fort Smith Rapids being the first and only obstruction on their journey from the sea up to that point, and above these rapids they have never been found.

*Nos. 15, 16, 17 and 18.*

There are three steamers now running on the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers, viz:—Stern-wheel steamer "Graham," plying between Fort McMurray and Fort Smith, screw steamer "Wrigley" plying between Fort Smith and Peel River, and the stern-wheel steamer "Athabasca," launched at Athabasca landing, 5th July, 1888. This steamer made several successful trips during the summer from the Athabasca landing to the head of the Grand Rapid, a distance of about 165 miles, also, up the Athabasca to the confluence of the Little Slave River, a distance of about 70 miles from the landing.

The attempt to ascend the Lesser Slave River was abandoned at that time, the water being so very low, but it is thought by practical men that the steamer can be taken up the river and across the lake.

The steamer "Graham" has been running from Lake Athabasca to Fort Smith and up to Fort McMurray since the summer of 1885, and doing good service. The steamer "Wrigley" plies the waters of the Mackenzie, the Peel River, Great Slave Lake and Great Slave River up to Fort Smith Rapid, drawing from 5 to 6 feet of water when loaded, and always doing very satisfactory work.

*No. 19. No.*

*No. 20. Don't know.*

*No. 21.*

The depth of snow that falls in the Mackenzie river district is from 18 inches to 2½ feet generally. In the Peace River district the fall of snow is greater, and as for the Fraser River country, we have often seen from 4 to 6 feet of snow on the level. Last summer was unusually dry, there being little or no rain in any portion of the Mackenzie basin, but usually the rain fall is quite sufficient for crops in that portion of country where crops are grown.

*No. 22.*

In any part of the Mackenzie basin that we are acquainted with, the frost penetrates from 4 to 8 feet, and without doubt in some places even more.

*Nos. 23, 24 and 25.*

The barren grounds get their name from the fact of their being barren and unproductive, there being no vegetation, and mostly a rocky and swampy country, destitute of timber.

*No. 26.*

We know of a certainty of potatoes being grown at Fort Good Hope on the Mackenzie River, and we have eaten new potatoes at Dunvegan on the Peace River on the 15th July, as large as a coffee cup, in fact, barley, potatoes and other vegetables grow abundantly at Fort Vermilion and Dunvegan on the Peace River.

*No. 27.*

We have seen good wheat grown at Chipewyan in small quantity. At Vermilion and Dunvegan, wheat will mature perhaps three years out of five.