

while the north side is bordered by small rock bluffs and the gravelly slopes of Level Mountain.

For the next four miles the valley is from a half to one mile in width (excepting at one point where a 60 feet cascade occurs in the stream) with a marshy area and a small round lake in the middle of it; here the valley now contracts somewhat and the hills descend with steeper yet easy slopes. At ten miles from the divide a valley opens to the south and appears a likely course to the Clearwater River. Three miles beyond, and in the same general N.W.W. course, a level area about one and a half mile square, and timbered principally with cottonwood of good size is reached. Here the Koketsi stream and Engalls Creek join the Sheslay, which apparently heads some fifteen miles south in snow and ice-capped mountains, but its most easterly branch, as far as could be seen, appeared to extend through low timbered country; and it is by this valley I hope that my assistant, Mr. Ross, will find a way to the Stikine River.

The Sheslay is a formidable stream even at this point and flows north through an open valley for fifty miles to the Inklin or Taku River, and is flanked on the west by snow mountains. The elevation of the flat land at the junction of the Sheslay and Koketsi rivers is about 1,900 feet, and here the built trail terminates, at an old Hudson's Bay Co. post called "Engalls," from thence a course (not yet worthy of the name of a trail) and made by miners and others, ascends Engalls Mountain to the north of the flats until an elevation of some 1,200 feet (or 4,000 feet above sea level) is reached, thence northerly it winds about for two or three miles in a series of marshy depressions until open rolling country some 300 feet lower is reached. From the high ground on Engalls Mountain a good view of the head valleys of the Sheslay and Doo-de-dontooya rivers was obtained and if a route by the former proves practicable to the Stikine, a shorter route to the north will result. From this high vantage point it was observed that the Doo-de-dontooya headed in Level Mountain, and near that of the north fork of the Tahltan, in a country favourable for a route via Telegraph Creek, and undoubtedly the shortest course to Teslin Lake if the Clearwater proves unfavourable.

From Engalls Mountain the character of the country changes, the valley is from three to eight miles wide and lies in view for many miles, but while it is a valley in comparison with the high flanking terrace of Level Mountain on the east and Heart Mountain valley to the west, it has many isolated hills and dunes breaking the general plane of its surface. At a distance it appears open and grasslike, but on approaching one finds the surface covered with loose turf and moss, very wet and unpleasant to travel through, but all on a hard bottom of gravel and detritus formed by glacial and volcanic action. Three streams head in this valley, viz., the Doo-de-dontooya, Matsa-tuya and the Koshin, which are fed principally by streams rising in Level and Heart Mountains. At thirty miles north from Engalls, Koshin Lake is situated under a high wooded hill which continues in easy undulations to the Nahlin. To the east of Koshin Lake a fine open flat extends for at least three miles to the foot of the long, regular timbered slope of Level Mountain.

From Koshin Lake to the Nahlin, the course of travel continues for some thirty-three miles along the slope on the right bank of the Koshin River, through an easy country, generally wooded with a small growth of spruce, black pine, poplar, alder and willow, and at a general eleva-