

Our present position was 16 miles west of Byron Bay. Next day, the wind being again in our favour, we made a good run, and landed for the night on the south-west shore of one of the largest of the Richardson Group, in latitude 68° 32' N.; longitude, 111° W.

On the 28th, when we landed for breakfast at Point Ross, some observations were obtained which verified the position of that place laid down by me in the spring journey. From this place, our run to the Coppermine was a splendid one. Stopping only once to cook, we sailed all night; at 3h. 30m. a.m., on the 29th, we passed by the south end of Douglas Island; at 5h. abreast of Cape Krusenstern; at noon, opposite Cape Kendall; and between 7h. and 8h. reached the Bloody Fall, not having seen a bit of ice since leaving Point Back.

Our consumption of provisions, from the 20th June until this date, was

- 4 bags pemmican, 90 lbs. each.
- 4½ bags flour.
- 150 lbs. dry meat (principally given to our dogs).
- 70 lbs. fat.

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About 11 pieces.

Twenty-one deer had been shot on the coast, and many more could have been killed, had I permitted it.

The water being very high in the river, I remained a day to allow it to subside, and our time was occupied in strengthening one of the boats for the ascent of the stream. The other boat was to be left behind.

On the 31st, although the water had fallen 12 inches, it was still much above its usual level; but as I had every confidence in the skill and coolness of my men, we commenced our upward course.

I believe that the Coppermine was never ascended before in so dangerous a state. The ledges of rock along the base of the cliffs which, in the worst part of the river had afforded footing to Dease and Simpson's party in 1838 and 1839, were now covered by water, in consequence of which the men had to walk with the tracking line along the top of the cliffs. In doing this, although the line was a strong one, it snapped four times, and other means were resorted to. After five days' most arduous and dangerous duty, during which the conduct of the party was most praiseworthy, we entered the Kendall River, and encamped on its banks.

Simpson says, somewhere in his narrative, that it is impracticable to take a boat across from the Kendall to Bear Lake, or *vice versa*, at any season except during the floods in spring. I was desirous of making the attempt, as by getting one of our light sea-boats into the Mackenzie much time would be saved on the portages *en route* to Athabasca.

Now that the high water would have been an advantage, we had the misfortune to find that it had fallen to its usual summer level; nevertheless, I determined to make the attempt.

On the 5th and 6th we ascended the Kendall, and traversed the Dismal Lakes, at the north-western extremity of which we arrived about 3 p.m. on the last-mentioned day. The guide was immediately sent to find the best route to the north branch of the Dease, whilst the remainder of the crew carried the baggage a portion of the day over the portage.

To give a detailed account of the difficulties we met with and overcame would occupy too much space in a report like this. It is sufficient to say, that on the afternoon of the 10th September we arrived at Fort Confidence, where I found everything in good order, and more than 3,000 lbs. of dried provisions in store.

Having given to my assistant, Mr. M'Kenzie, instructions regarding the payments to be made, and the gratuities to be given to the Indians, I started at 10 p.m. on the 11th, in the small boat, with four men and an Indian, for Fort Simpson, and arrived there on the 26th, having been impeded in the river by continued head wind.

Late the next evening the large boat came up, and the party were again united.