

It was found necessary to travel mostly in the early morning, before the heat of the sun melted the crust on the snow. We therefore commenced our day's tramp about 3 a.m. and stopped about noon. We proceeded up the Chamouchouan River to the Shegobeesh Branch, and, following it to the lake at its head, crossed from it by a short portage to Lake Ashouapmouchouan, April 15th. Here, having replenished our stock of provisions, we continued up the Nikaubau River, through Lake Nikaubau and several smaller lakes, following the route laid down on Richardson's map, and reached the Height of Land.

Crossing this, we soon reached Lake Obatigoman, and, having passed along its eastern shore four miles, we passed overland to Lake Chibougamoo, arriving there on the 20th of April. Up to this time the weather, being cold and clear, was very favorable for travelling, but we were now overtaken by a period of mild weather, which made the snow so soft and heavy as to render tramping with loads almost impossible. In addition to this we were short of provisions, and on the 24th I decided to send four men ahead without loads, with instructions to reach the Hudson Bay post on Mistassini and send back provisions from there. These men travelled over sixty miles in forty hours, without food, and thus reached the post. From here two Indians were sent back with provisions to relieve us, and arrived at our camp, on the east side of Lake Chibougamoo, April 28th. Continuing our journey from this point, we reached the post next day.

On arriving at Mistassini I found Mr. Bignell encamped there, with about half his party, the remainder being engaged bringing in the canoes left on the Peribonka at the close of navigation. During my absence Mr. Bignell had returned to Lake Onistagan, and continued his survey from that point to the entrance of the Temiscamie River into Lake Mistassinis.

Mr. Bignell's party and my men were unable to move until May 28th, owing to the breaking up of the ice and the opening of navigation. Mr. Bignell, with his party, then descended to Lake St. John, while I sent six men, with three canoes, to Lake Ashouapmouchouan, to bring in the provisions drawn and stored there during the winter. After a very rough and dangerous trip, owing to the spring freshets in the rivers, the men returned on the 27th of June.

Mr. Macoun and myself were employed during their absence in keeping meteorological observations, determining the latitude of the post, and in collecting specimens of, and making notes on, the natural history of the vicinity. Having engaged two Indians as guides, we left the post June 30th, and, passing up the lake, reached the end of Mr. McQuat's survey on the west side, three miles beyond the discharge of the lake, on July 3rd.