

tributary below the Snake river, enters from the west twenty-seven miles above the Fort, and is called by the Indians Road river. This stream, rising in the mountains to the west, is very swift, cutting a deep valley in the high plateau. It has a width at its mouth of about 100 yards.

From Road river down to Fort McPherson several encampments of Loucheux Indians were passed, the first seen since leaving Lansing creek. These spend the summer along this part of the river in fishing and drying the white fish they catch for their winter's use.

FORT MCPHERSON.

Fort McPherson, which stands on the east bank of the river, is the most northern trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company. It consists of the Company's buildings and some houses belonging to the Church of England Mission. These latter are now being occupied by a small detachment of North-west Mounted Police, consisting of half a dozen men under Inspector Howard. There is also another fur trader who has lately started in business.

A careful estimate of the discharge of the Peel river was made at Fort McPherson on the 31st of July, when the level of the water was about a medium stage. Though the water mark of the spring freshet is thirty feet above the level in July, the Peel river keeps at a fairly uniform level all summer, and scarcely falls more than three or four feet below the level when the discharge was taken. The figures obtained for the discharge were 49, 206 cubic feet per second. The average velocity is about two miles an hour, and the greatest depth fifteen feet.

Fort McPherson stands on a bank seventy-five feet above the water, and this is the last high land on the river banks. Below this is the flood plain of the great Mackenzie delta, in which all, or nearly all, of the land is submerged in the spring floods. The southern edge of this delta is a line drawn from the Fort to Point Separation, and marked by several low ridges similar to the one on which the Fort stands. From Point Separation the trend of the higher land is northward, skirting along the east side of the eastern channel of the Mackenzie, and culminating in a low range of hills called the Reindeer hills beyond Campbell river. West of the Peel river the margin of the delta is the eastern face of the high escarpment mentioned before, which trends slightly west of north from Fort McPherson, crossing the Rat river below the mouth of Long-Stick creek, and gradually approaching the range of mountains west of it, until it merges with this range and disappears at the base of Mount Goodenough. The boundary of the delta north of this is then the base of the mountain range.