

No. 11.

REPORT OF WM. OGILVIE.

EXPLORATION SURVEY OF THE YUKON RIVER DISTRICT. 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following preliminary report of the operations of my exploration survey of the Yukon River District.

In accordance with your instructions, dated the 16th of April, 1887, I left Ottawa on April the 20th and arrived in Victoria, B.C., on the 2nd of May. I at once proceeded to make arrangements for travelling to the scene of my survey, and hired six men to accompany me, three being required for the survey proper and three for transporting supplies.

We left Victoria on the afternoon of the 12th of May, on the Pacific Steamship Company's steamer "Ancon," which was so heavily laden that I had considerable difficulty in persuading the captain to take on board my freight and party.

Our trip was a very slow one, we did not reach Juneau City, Alaska, until the night of the 19th of May, and next day the steamer, instead of going to Chilkoot, as we had understood she would do, proceeded to Sitka, where we remained for a day. Part of another day was spent at Killisnoo, so that we did not arrive at Chilkoot until the 24th of May.

At this point I made preparations for commencing my survey, but owing to wet, stormy weather three days were lost. I then got the survey started from Pyramid Island, in Chilkoot Inlet, a point determined by the United States Coast Survey.

From this point I carried the survey across the inlet, and thence up it, and Taiya Inlet, and the valley of the Taiya River, to the Chilkoot or Taiya Pass through the coast range of mountains.

I here detailed one of my party (Captain Moore) to explore a pass a short distance south of the Chilkoot Pass; this route leaves Taiya Inlet about two miles from its head and follows up the valley of the Skagway River to its source, and thence down the valley of a stream which empties into Lake Tahko.

Captain Moore reports this pass as being much lower than the Chilkoot Pass, and he thinks it is not any higher at the summit than Lake Lindeman. It is timbered throughout, and he estimates the distance from tide water to the summit at eighteen miles, and from the summit to Lake Tahko at about twenty-two to twenty-four miles. He has had considerable experience in mountain trails, having built the Government trail in Cassiar district, British Columbia, and he thinks a trail could be built through this pass much more easily than the one constructed in Cassiar district, and a waggon road more easily than the one constructed through the canyon of the Fraser River.

I believe that this pass has not been named, and think that the party I sent through were the first white men who ever travelled through it; I have therefore taken the liberty of naming it the "White Pass," after the Honorable the Minister of the Interior, and I hope the name will be retained.

Some seventeen mibers passed into the interior by the Chilkoot Pass while I was in that vicinity.

The Chilkoot Indians claim the exclusive privilege of packing goods over Chilkoot Pass, and they demanded \$20 per hundred pounds to transport my supplies from the head of tide water to the head of the Lewis River. I made an agreement with them to pack my outfit and supplies to the summit of the Pass for \$10 per hundred pounds, and from there I arranged with my own party, assisted by some interior

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