

6 MAYNE's *Sketch of the Country between Jervis Inlet, &c.*

The same absence of animal life was observable on this journey as I remarked on my excursion last year. Here, where man hardly ever comes, one would think game would abound, but we only saw one deer, half-a-dozen grouse, and as many small birds. We saw the marks of several bears, and sufficient indications of deer to show us that the solitary one we had seen was not the only one in British Columbia. Of course, in this absence of vitality I do not include mosquitos, which swarm about in myriads, and torment one night and day as mosquitos only know how.

I need not speak of Dr. Wood, except to thank him for his kind assistance while he was with me. I have given his observations on the country passed over; he regrets that he had not opportunities of making any but what are superficial and imperfect.

I am preparing a sketch of my route. I have to regret that the succession of wet cloudy days and nights, and often the density of the bush, prevented the verification of the estimated distances by astronomical observations as frequently as I should have wished.

Since writing the above remarks on the route from Clāhōose, I have been enabled to obtain more information concerning it from my Indians, through an interpreter provided by his Excellency the Governor, and I find that it does not answer our expectations. Instead of going direct to the Fraser, as I understood them, it comes out on Lake Anderson; the country over which it passes is not good as they said, and it takes them nearly a month to perform the journey. This, I fear, makes this route quite useless, and these Indians do not know the country farther north. They describe the Clāhōose River as very large "like the Fraser," and that there is good land on its banks. Their description of these rivers confirms me in the opinion that the Clāhōose, Lilloet, Squāwmisht, Hoystien, and one or two other rivers, rise in the same place in the mountains, where there are several small lakes, as mentioned in paragraph 27.

I have made no remarks on the probable depth of snow in the winter on the Howe Sound route, but I do not think it likely there is much more than on the Lilloet, both having nearly the same latitude, though the elevation of the Howe Sound route is the greater. The Indians say that it is not at all deep, that it snows hard during one month (November), remaining on the ground three months, but their accounts on such subjects are always very vague. I understand that at times there are from 2 to 3 feet of snow at Port Lilloet.