

doubt the truth of it, that a remarkable species of partridge as large as English fowls, are found in that part of the country only.

"The rivers and lakes near the little forest, where the family above mentioned had fixed their abode, abounded with fine fish, particularly trout and barble, which are easily caught, the former with hooks, and the latter with nets. In fact I have not seen or heard of any part of this country which seems to possess half the advantages requisite for a constant residence, that are ascribed to this little spot."

Mr. Tyrrell, in describing the game met with on the Thelon, says its abundance assists in identifying the valley "as the site of the early and remote but highly-favored Indian settlement so well described, but so vaguely located by Hearne. In support of Mr. Hearne's story and my belief, it may be noted that some very old chippings were observed, as well as decayed moss-grown remains of some very old camps, while scarcely any recent signs of habitation exist."

Numerous Musk Oxen.

"As we glided quickly and quietly down the river, one of the most interesting features met with was the occurrence of numerous bands of musk oxen feeding upon the luxuriant grass or sleeping on the river bank. Attempts were made to obtain photographs of some of these noble brutes, but such were not very successful, for two reasons. First, because of the weariness of the animals, and secondly, because of the weariness of the photographers. It was observed that when bands of cows with their young were met with they were usually very timid, and fled at first approach of danger, but in the case of straggling bulls which were frequently seen, they were much more fearless, and allowed us to approach as closely as prudence and their defiant attitudes would permit. On one occasion, when Mr. Fairchild climbed the river bank in order to photograph a fine specimen, he had no sooner snapped his camera and turned his back, than the brute charged and followed him to the bank. He was at once covered by our rifles, but as Fairchild stepped safely into his canoe no shots were fired. Indeed, day after day we passed numbers of musk oxen, without molesting them in any way, other than trying to photograph them. A notable fact in regard to the musk oxen was that every animal seen, with but one exception, was on the north side of Thelon, or on islands in the river. On one occasion when three musk oxen were met with upon an island, they immediately plunged into the water and swam rapidly to the north shore, after gaining which, they could be seen galloping across the plains for miles."

Caribou.

"Besides the musk oxen, the Thelon is evidently frequented on both sides by a great number of caribou, as their tracks were everywhere to be seen, though none of the deer were met with until the lower stretches of the river were reached, their northward migration having preceded us."

Geese.

"Many broods of geese were also observed along the low grassy banks of the Thelon. They were a small, grey species, with black necks and heads and white bands around the latter. Later in the season a great number of moulting geese were met with, and thirty or forty of them knocked over with sticks for supplying our kettles."

Ducks and Ptarmigan.

"Ducks and ptarmigan were also met with, though not in great numbers, whilst the spruce woods were enlivened by the songs of singing birds, notably American robins."

Bears.

Bear tracks were twice observed on the banks of the Thelon, and on the return journey Mr. Fairchild was fortunate enough to fall in with and slay 'Mr. Bruin' after an interesting scrimmage. It was not a black bear, but a small silver grey, or doubtless the Barren Land grizzly, as reported by Sir

John Franklin to have been found by him north of Great Slave Lake. Unfortunately the interesting hide was lost in a canoe accident the day after it was procured."

Moose.

"On two occasions moose antlers were found embedded in the sand of the river bank, and this is an interesting fact, proving the existence of the animals somewhere on the river, possibly higher up, as the antlers might have been carried down by the spring ice. This discovery proves the truth of the report made by the Indians to Sir George Back in 1834, regarding the game on the Thelon, as well as assisting in identifying this river valley as the site of the early and remote but highly-favored Indians' settlement as well described but vaguely located by Samuel Hearne."

Woods.

"The wooded, or partially wooded banks of the Thelon extend for a distance of about 170 miles below the forks of the Hanbury. This is not continuous stretch of timber, but over that distance many fine spruce groves, as well as more or less continuous groves are found. The largest trees measured from 12 to 15 inches in diameter, but the average would be about 6 inches."

Volume and Velocity of the Thelon.

"Approximate averages of measurements from the Hanbury to the Doo-baunt—width, 250 yards; depth, 6 feet; current, 3 miles per hour."

"The depth of channel in most places measured from 10 to 14 feet, but in few places sand bars were observed with not over 3 feet of water. At several points very swift currents were met with, but nothing too heavy to run either down or up with our canoes; for in ascending the river, having a strong, fair breeze, we sailed up through the worst places."

Summary of Results of Tyrrell's Survey.

That the Thelon River is "navigable for river steamers all the way from Hudson's Bay to the Hanbury, a distance of 550 miles, excepting perhaps at two rapids above Baker Lake, where some improvement to the channel might be made. I would judge the river portion to be open at least five months, and the inlet and larger lakes about a month less—July, August, September and October."

"Between these two terminal points (Great Slave Lake and Chesterfield Inlet) the only existing way of communication is by the excellent canoe route followed by my party."

Facilities for a Railway.

"For heavy commercial traffic a railway could be constructed without serious engineering difficulties, by avoiding the lakes along the Hanbury River route, there being no great elevations or other great difficulties to be overcome, unless it be the remoteness of the district and the scarcity of timber." Should any kind of electric transmission become desirable, the two grand water-powers on the Lockhart River and the Dickson Canyon could be utilized to great advantage during the open season."

Agricultural and Mineral Prospects.

"The Thelon valley, though affording fine grazing lands for musk oxen and caribou can scarcely be looked upon as a desirable agricultural district, although I judge from the growth and great variety of plants observed there, that some of our cereals and most of our hardy vegetables could be grown there."

"As to mineral products, . . . the valley has little to offer." But he remarks that the Eskimaux met with had implements made of native copper picked up somewhere far to the northwards.

Esquimaux Scented.

Twenty miles below the last woods on the Thelon the party first smelt and then saw evidence of the neighborhood of Esquimaux in hundreds of the putrifying carcasses of caribou strewn along the shore. Arriving at the camp, Archdeacon Lofthouse was greeted by Eskimo who traded at Churchill and one

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