

whether he journeyed continuously or hunted on the way, or anything else that might retard or accelerate his movements. If the journey was made in the winter, make similar inquiries. You will then have to assume a rate of travel per day for him, and from it deduce your distances. In this way you generally can get a fairly good idea of the principal features of the country, and their distances apart.

As I wished to secure the aid of three or four Indians to help me to Peace River, there being a long portage reported between the water systems of the Liard and Peace, I asked Mr. Christie to negotiate with them for me. To secure the services of any, I had first to win the good-will and approbation of the chiefs, of whom there were two. A long talk was indulged in, some tobacco and bread was distributed to them, and many irrelevant questions were discussed before they would listen to my proposal about hiring help from them. They seemed to

assume that I was a travelling chief among white men, and insisted that I should raise the price of furs before they would make any arrangement: it took some time to disabuse their minds of this impression. They then wished to know why I was so desirous of passing through this country. To have explained to them my real object would have invited an endless discussion of questions which I would not care to answer even if I could, so I simply told them that it was my shortest and quickest way home, and as it was late I had no other choice. After some very sage reflections they seemed to think this satisfactory, and consented that three men should accompany me. After much discussion three were selected, and as they had to make preparations, the following day was allowed them for that: but at the last moment one of them refused to go, and with some difficulty another one was induced to take his place.

*(To be Continued.)*

