

IA, A. 1900

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 13

boat inhabits
the ptarmigan
and Teslin
divided with a

scattered scrubby black spruce. Owing to the ponds along it, the labour involved in moving boats and heavy supplies across this portage is greatly diminished; it is therefore much more frequented than the one three miles farther north.

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We were now in the last week of September and there were many indications of the fast approach of winter. The snow line, which had reached to within 600 feet of the valley, reminded us that we must not delay much longer. We had yet to descend a stream which, by a comparison of the difference of level between its source and its mouth, must necessarily be swift and, at this season of the year, shallow and full of rapids. The mountains from which my observations were to be made were very high and rugged, and the difficulty and labour in ascending them would be greatly augmented by the deep snow, which kept increasing after every storm.

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On September 25, we left our camp at the eastern extremity of Cary portage and sailed ten miles northward on Quiet lake, and camped on the eastern shore. In the afternoon we ascended the only hill there is on the east side of the lake; about midway along its length it reaches an altitude of 2,045 feet above the level of the lake. This station, the first established in the basin of the Big Salmon river, was connected with our triangulation points on the Nisutlin river. The next day we moved along the lake a farther distance of five miles, and in the afternoon occupied another mountain, but this time on the west side of the lake. The photographs taken from this station covered the western extremity of the lake, which had been invisible from the station occupied the previous day.

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ground.

Quiet lake is a sheet of water fifteen and a half miles long by three-quarters of a mile at its widest part, and with its outlet, the Big Salmon river, an important tributary of the Lewes, occupies a valley which conforms to the north-west bearing of the valleys of two important neighbouring tributaries of the same river; the valley of the Pelly river to the north and that of Teslin river to the south. Quiet lake lies west of Nisutlin river, and for two-thirds of its distance stretches in a northerly direction, it then curves to the north west, which in a distance of thirty-five miles is the general direction of the valley of the Big Salmon river. The level of the lake is one hundred and thirty feet above that of Nisutlin river. Its eastern shore is rocky with forests of conifers to the water's edge. A small stream, which rises in the pass connecting the valley of Muddy creek with that of Quiet lake, empties into the lake near its southern extremity. Besides this one there are several others on the west side of the lake which rise in a massive range of mountains whose summits are amongst the highest of this region. Where these streams discharge, there are long narrow points stretching out into the lake, formed by the gravel and silt which have been carried down by the streams. On the east side of the lake the strip of hilly country, which lies between it and the Nisutlin river, is too narrow to admit of any important stream.

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The Big Salmon river issues from the western extremity of Quiet lake. To the north west of the lake there are two other lakes, the first one is at a distance of one and a half miles from Quiet lake, and is one and a half miles long; it may be considered an expansion of the river which on leaving it resumes its course in a northerly direction a farther distance of three miles to a second lake stretching in a north-west direction, whose greatest length is five miles, with a width of a little over half a mile at its broadest part. The position of the longest axis of this lake is therefore lying nearly across the valley of the river, which enters its southern shore at about half way between its ends and flows out of it near its western extremity. Two islands occur in the lake close to where the river enters. The eastern half of the lake is full of islands, none, however, of very large size, and all timbered with spruce. A low tract, being the continuation of that in which this lake lies, leads towards the east to the valley of the Rose river. As the distance is short and the lakes numerous, it was doubtless used by the Indians as an easy way of communication between both valleys, for we found indications of the valley of the Rose river having been travelled extensively at some recent period. From the valley of the Rose river the traveller could also reach that of the Nisutlin river by following an Indian trail, which enters a low pass through the south end of the range which divides both streams. Once beyond the summit the trail turns into the valley of Canyon creek, which it follows as far as the Canyon, where it crosses over to the left side of the stream and finally terminates at the Nisutlin river.