

some future day to turn it to some use. I am known by Dr. Schultz in 62 at the Lower Fort, also by Mr. Sanford Fleming, A. R. C. Selwyn, Prof. McCowan, V. N. Coté, Half-Breed Commissioner, and many others. Not forgetting my much respected friends R. Goulet, Esq., Bishop Grandin, Favard, Bompas.

*Remarks on the Great Mackenzie Basin.*

I firmly believe this spot when known properly will astonish many, not only for what can be grown or produced, but also for its mines, coal, salt, tar, oil, &c., but I do believe, and that firmly, that for the next 20 or 25 years Providence intends it only as a large fur preserve. The difficulties of getting in and out are too great, and it would never do to attempt aiding settlers, as they could not get on; they might exist, but what could they make or better themselves and where get their supplies. Let Manitoba and the North-West fill up and prosper, 20 or 25 years hence; then cast an eye towards the Great Mackenzie Basin. Canada has a great work before her, let her attend to this just now and in the distant future, then let her drive in railroads and develop the Great Mackenzie Basin. But by all manner of means let it alone just now, except survey parties in the barren lands.

I forgot to mention, between the chain of lakes and barren land there is a belt of rock strata turned up just like ploughed land, only straight up, which has passes through; these passes always tally with the narrows on the lakes, hence the cariboo know it and choose the routes. Strange, but true, I have a painfully vivid recollection of this fact, as I sprained both ankles and cut up my feet pretty badly once, whilst crossing. I had been off with the Indians one summer hunting deer; my interpreter Wm. Hoole, accompanied me, who is now dead, and never enjoyed myself more in my life.

Sand flies are the curse of the barren lands, but when the deer approach the flies leave you. When the deer are coming it reminds you of the rumbling you hear when living close to London.

A fact, and strange at that, badgers, skunks, fishers, snakes and lizards are never found north of or across the Salt River or Slave River, although it is but a very small stream. This spot is one of the most valuable in all the North-West as a farming and grazing centre, and the only one I could recommend as a settlement or town site. It is worth looking into.

W. C. KING.

*Answers from W. E. Waite, Fort Vermilion.*

SERIES A.—RELATING TO NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION.

1. Know only Athabasca River from mouth of River LaBiche to mouth of Little Slave River, Little Slave River and Lake, and Peace River from Lake Athabasca to Dunvegan, a survey of which was made by W. Ogilvie, D.L.S.

2. Athabasca River is navigable from head of Grand rapids for some distance above the mouth of Slave River. In high water probably nearly to the Jasper House. Lesser Slave River navigable for steamers in high water only, for vessels not drawing more than 20 than inches water. The chutes below Vermilion are the only real break in the navigation of the Peace.

3. To connect Upper Peace River with Athabaska River a road from mouth of Little Slave River to Little Slave Lake, say 30 miles, north end Slave Lake at Smoky River Crossing 75 or 80 miles. To connect Upper and Lower Peace River, canal or tramway (3) three miles.

4. Am only acquainted with Little Slave Lake which has been surveyed and described by W. L. Thompson, D.L.S., and W. Ogilvie, D.L.S. *Vide* their reports on the same.

5. No answer.

6. *Vide* Report of William Ogilvie, D.L.S.