

four miles long in all, thus reached Lake Mistassini at a point about thirty miles to the north-east of the Hudson Bay post. By passing down the east shore we arrived at the post on December 23rd, thus finishing a long and difficult tramp on snowshoes, having walked for the last ten days of the journey on very short rations, with the thermometer ranging to forty degrees below zero.

Departure for
Ottawa.

Shortly after our arrival I made arrangements with Mr. Miller, the gentleman in charge of the post, by which I obtained quarters in his house, and there set up the instruments and took regular meteorological observations during the month of January. At the end of this time, having had several disagreements with Mr. Bignell regarding the operations of the party, I determined to return to Ottawa, and having arranged with Mr. Miller to continue the meteorological observations during my absence, I left on the 2nd of February, accompanied by two men whom Mr. Bignell was sending to Lake St. John with letters. On leaving the post we proceeded to the south-west end of the lake, crossing the Height of Land near that point, and, after traversing several small lakes, reached a branch of the Chief River, followed it to its junction with the Chamouchouan River, and continued down the latter, reaching Lake St. John February 21st.

Two heavy snowstorms occurred while we were on the way, making the walking so difficult that our tent and sheet iron stove had to be abandoned, and we were obliged to sleep in the snow for more than a week.

The country passed through is very similar to that seen on the Peribonka River, and is described by Mr. W. McOuat in his report on the Mistassini River (Report of Progress Geol. Survey, 1871-72).

Since Mr. McOuat's exploration, the country has been wholly burned over, and few clumps of green woods remain.

Return to
Mistassini.

Leaving Lake St. John February 23rd, I continued my journey with a horse and sleigh to Quebec, and reached Ottawa March 2nd. On the 23rd I received instructions to return to Mistassini, in charge of the party, and left Ottawa next day, accompanied by Mr. J. M. Macoun. Having been delayed in Montreal and Quebec, Lake St. John was not reached until April 5th.

Here we secured four men and provisions for the return trip through the kindness of Mr. J. H. Cummins, of the Hudson Bay Company, who also forwarded provisions for us to Lake Ashonapmouchouan, to be there stored until my men could return for them with canoes when the rivers had opened. Leaving Lake St. John, April 9th, with a party of eight, we started to return to Mistassini by the route taken by Mr. Jas. Richardson, a full report of which is given in the Geological Survey Report for 1870-71.