

mouth of Braine creek the actual survey commenced, though a track survey had been carried up from Williams's cabin at the cañon seven miles below, to connect with Mr. Keele's survey of the lower part of the Beaver river.

ROUTES SELECTED.

It was my original intention on leaving Ottawa to follow identically the same route across the mountains which was taken by the prospectors in 1839, but I was dissuaded from this on reaching Dawson by many of those who came through the Bonnet Plume pass. These men stated that on account of the difficulties of this particular route, any other would be preferable. I could not learn that any one, at any time, whether white man or Indian, had ever taken a canoe across into the Peel River watershed by any other route than the Bonnet Plume pass. But I did learn that the Indians had come across from the Wind river to the Beaver river through a pass that was said to be very much lower than the Bonnet Plume. It was finally decided if possible to find this winter route and follow it.

On our way up to the Stewart river, we met Mr. Braine of Lansing creek, and from him we obtained the necessary information as to how to find the pass to the Wind river, for he himself had been through a part of it the winter before. It is sufficient to say here that the Braine pass through the mountains, though an easy winter route, is not a feasible one for canoes. Though we went through at a time when the water in Braine creek was probably at its best stage, yet we had to portage almost the entire load for fifteen and a half miles, and the canoes themselves for three and a half miles.

A micrometer and compass survey was carried from the mouth of Braine creek through Braine pass, and down Nash creek to the Wind river, a distance of thirty miles.

From the mouth of Nash creek to the Peel river the course of the stream is almost true north, so that to save time a careful track survey, checked by frequent observations for latitude, was all that was made. The distance is approximately 100 miles.

We reached the Peel river on the 13th of July, and from this point a micrometer survey was recommenced and carried down the stream to a point 98 miles below Fort McPherson, where the western branch of the river first joins Mackenzie waters, and from this point back to Fort McPherson by the central branch of the Peel river. The survey of this portion was completed on the 11th of August, and on the 15th the return journey to Dawson was begun.

Returning, the route followed was that by the Rat river through McDougal pass and into the Bell and Porcupine rivers, the same as had been taken by Mr. W. Ogilvie in 1887. A small portion of new work