

On the 28th, while on a mountain top south of our camp, we saw a smoke at two points on the river, which we could not account for. We knew it could only be made by the Indians, but we did not expect them to return from the Yukon side for some weeks yet.

On our return from the mountain, however, we found that the advance guard had arrived, several women and an old man being camped beside the river near where our net was set.

The next day more Indians arrived in two small skin boats, while others passed down, walking along the river bank. They had built the boats a few miles above our camp, and were going down some distance to get more mooseskins to build larger ones.

The total number of Indians was about thirty, including men, women

and children, and about 100 dogs, apparently. Most of these Indians we had not seen before, as they were hunting on the MacMillan river, but we recognized all our Ross river friends, with the exception of the oldest woman, who was absent. We failed to find out what became of her, but concluded that the effort of crossing the divide during the gales in March was too severe a strain on her, and she probably died on the Ross river. After a life of toil she was on the right side of the divide at last, in a metaphorical sense, as an Indian woman gets rather the worst of it in this life.

We departed from our spring camp on June 1st, carrying on a micrometer and compass survey of the river on our way down stream, using the two boats for this work. The cedar canoe

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