

headwaters of the Kootenay, following it to Canal Flat—a narrow neck of land about a half-mile wide, between the waters of the Kootenay and the Columbia. From thence Palliser turned West into the wide valley of Findley Creek until his way was blocked by the precipitous range of mountains girding the headwaters of Kootenay Lake, and which necessitated his retracing his steps. It was about this time that the discovery of the Kicking Horse Pass (under very unlooked-for circumstances) was made by Sir James Hector, of the Geological Survey. "The party were encamped on the banks of the Wapta. A pack-horse carrying Sir James' instruments had escaped and crossed the river. Sir James swam after it and brought it back, and while tying it near his own riding animal the two horses started biting each other. The horse generally ridden by Sir James delivered a vicious kick which caught him with full force and broke three ribs. He lay unconscious for hours, and the three Indians who accompanied him believed him dead. After vainly trying to resuscitate him, they sadly dug his grave; but while carrying his body to it he revived. The grave had been dug some distance from the camp, and, curious to know the extent of the valley, Sir James, as soon as he was able, explored it further and this finally led to the discovery of what was then named the Kicking Horse Pass." The discovery of this Pass solved the question of a route through the Rockies; but the glacial peaks of the Selkirks still barred the way to the Pacific, and the solution was for the time abandoned.

Some years later Mr. Walter Moberly, C.E., was commissioned to explore