

We ascended the tributary from the west six miles to a small lake, which, being found partly frozen over, we were compelled to discontinue our canoe voyage on October 23rd. A permanent camp was then formed, and Mr. Bignell joined us on November 4th, he having been stopped by ice on the Peribonka, about fifteen miles from Lake Onistagan. Winter camp.

After making toboggans for the transport of provisions and outfit, and as none of our party knew the route to Lake Mistassini, awaiting the arrival of a guide, we left the camp November 27th, and arrived at the Height of Land December 9th. The route travelled follows the branch, which flows through a chain of large lakes lying between ranges of low hills stretching from north to south. These hills have an average elevation of not more than fifty feet above the water-level. The land near the lakes, which cover the greater part of the surface of the country, is of a swampy character, clad with a thick growth of small black spruce and larch, and is wholly unfit for purposes of agriculture. The distance from the lake camp to the Height of Land is about forty miles, course nearly west. The lakes are well stocked with fish. Game is not abundant. Few ducks were seen on account of the absence of proper feeding-grounds, and no traces of moose or caribou were met with.

On crossing the Height of Land, we descended about 300 feet in twelve miles to Lake Temiscamie, a long lake running north and south, varying from one to three miles in width and very deep. An outpost from the Mistassini establishment was formerly located here by the Hudson Bay Company, but was abandoned some years back, as the Indians formerly trading here have either died or become accustomed to take their furs to Lake St. John for sale. Lake Temiscamie.

Following the Temiscamie River flowing out of the lake, which empties through Lake Mistassinis (Little Mistassini) into the great lake, for a distance of six miles, we passed through a very crooked lake about four miles long, and then continued down the river six miles, where we followed a portage route two miles long, and thus reached the north-east end of Lake Mistassinis on December 13th. The general course from Lake Temiscamie to this point is west-north-west. Lake Mistassinis.

The river continues almost parallel to the lake, and empties into it on the east side about thirty miles from its north end, running out again on the opposite side some distance further north.

Lake Mistassinis, or Little Mistassini, is about fifty miles from north-east to south-west, lying parallel to the great lake, and is from one to eight miles wide, six miles being near the average breadth.

We passed down the east side to near the south-west end, where we crossed, and following a portage route through two small lakes about Lake Mistassini