

## SCOUTS OF EMPIRE

and its great tributary the Kootenay, and down to the point where Lewis and Clark reached the Columbia in 1805 he could claim the honour of first discovery.

About the middle of July, Thompson reached Windermere Lake, and built Fort Kootenay, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1808 he continued his way up the Columbia to its source in Upper Columbia Lake. From the head of this lake, he could see the waters of another mighty stream flowing turbulently to the south, and immediately determined to follow it. This river, which he named after his friend McGillivray, was the Kootenay, though its identity as a branch of the Columbia was not to be discovered for some time to come.

Portaging his canoes over the flat terrace, now cut by a canal, Thompson embarked on the Kootenay, which he descended to Kootenay Lake, which he reached May 14. Returning to the Columbia, he packed his winter's furs, and carried them over the