

route of Captain Back by the Lockhart River to Artillery Lake, Tyrrell, employed his voyageurs in transporting the outfit over the chain of lakes portage route used by Mr. Warburton Pike in 1890, these small lakes covering three-quarters of the twenty-four mile portage. Meanwhile the surveyors were occupied in surveying Charlton Harbor and the Lockhart River. The Lockhart "having in its length of 24 miles a total fall of 668 feet. If not of use for purposes of navigation, however, it may some day prove none the less valuable for the generation of electric power, to be utilized in the development of the district, or in conducting traffic through it. As a town site, no place could be more beautifully or advantageously situated than the level park-like terraces at Fort Reliance."

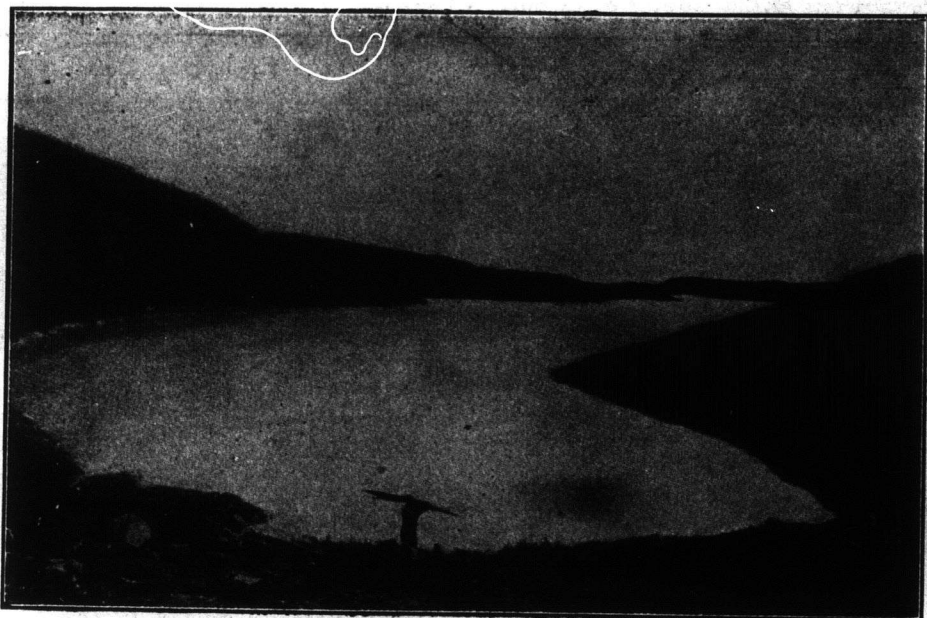
The Height of Land.

The party, with outfit, reached Artillery Lake on 26th May, finding the ice decomposing, with much open water along the shores. They went on with the surveys, and transported the supplies over the ice, with the occasional use of canoes, till the 8th of June, when they camped at the most northerly grove of timber on the east shore of the lake, to wait till the ice cleared away. They had met a Chippewyan Indian, named "Pierre Fort Smith," who gave them much general information, as well as drawing a map of Artillery Lake and the Thelon River, which Mr. Tyrrell considered better than that published in Captain Back's book, wherein

set off in a canoe with two Indians on the midnight hunt. Landing and creeping up the bank, "there we lay for some minutes in silent admiration within 60 yards of the foremost brute, in order to gain breath and steady our nerves, which being accomplished, and the two largest bulls selected, at a given word, we both fired."

"They were all taken by surprise, and at once were stricken with panic, and yet they had not located their source of danger, and knew not which way to flee. The ensuing ten minutes were assuredly most interesting around 'Musk Ox Hill.' Although our rifles were the most modern and very powerful, one 'soft-nose' was by no means sufficient to bring the bulls to earth. We had to spring to our feet and defend ourselves from the charge of several of the infuriated band, which, was, however, soon despatched before our deadly missiles. One of the large bulls killed was found upon examination to carry six mortal wounds, and three holes through his heart, all of which he had received before falling. Such was found to be the tenacity of these noble beasts."

"The whole night had passed without thought of sleep, but we had had a successful hunt, and were now well stocked with fresh meat. On the summit of 'Musk Ox Hill'—seventy feet in height—a great cairn of rocks was built and the geographical position of the spot determined. About one mile east of the hill, a few small scrubby spruce trees were observed—the first seen since



South extremity Artillery Lake, Sept. 10th.

the Teh-lon is described by Indians to be "a broad and noble stream, decorated on either bank by tall pine and birch, and flowing with uninterrupted tranquillity to its journey's end." Back was urged by the Indians to cross the portage to this fine river, rather than proceed down the Great Fish River, as he did, to the Arctic Sea. But he seems to have concluded that the Thelon flowed into Hudson's Bay and therefore useless for the purpose of his expedition in search of the expedition of Sir John Ross. But the indications of the existence of the Teh-lon on the old maps are derived from the information given by the Indians to Back.

On the 26th June the expedition found the portage of 100 yards from Clinton Golden Lake running eastwards towards The Height of Land, moss-grown fragments of tepe poles indicating it had been travelled by Indians in past times. One and a half miles from the portage out of Clinton Golden Lake another of 300 yards took them across the divide. The elevation above the sea at the divide was only 1,234 feet and 406 feet above Artillery Lake. Descending, Tyrrell named the first three lakes crossed Deville, Smart and Sifton.

A Musk Ox Hunt.

While windbound on Sifton Lake on the 27th June, in that land of daylight at night, Mr. Tyrrell spied, at 10 p.m., a band of 15 musk oxen feeding about a mile from camp. Procuring two modern rifles, with "soft-nosed" ammunition, Messrs. Tyrrell and Fairchild

leaving Artillery Lake."

Down the Hanbury River.

From Sifton Lake the course zig-zagged S.E., N.E., and E., through a succession of small lakes down stream to Lac du Bois, so named from a few scattered spruce on its shores. It discharges by a wild rapid of 45 feet fall into a little lake, the discharging stream from which was given the name of the first white man who ascended it, David T. Hanbury. The route down stream was through lakes and rapids, the general character being a fine canoe route, with a mean velocity of 3½ miles an hour, to White Sandy Lake. The wildest section of the Hanbury begins a mile below this lake, with a beautiful fall of 50 feet named Macdonald. Thence the river rushes for three miles through "Dickson's" canyon, and falls 200 feet. The scenery of this canyon is the wildest and grandest on the whole route. A mile below the canyon "Ford's" Fall, of 60 feet, occurs, followed nine miles on by another beautiful fall of 60 feet—"Helen's"—a short distance below which another fall of 10 feet completes the list on the Hanbury River, which, after a fine, smooth run of eight miles, then joins the Thelon River.

Distance from Fort Reliance to Thelon Forks.

"The Hanbury River and upper lakes, as a whole, form an excellent canoe route from Clinton Golden Lake and down to the Thelon River. The whole distance across our winding route measured 165 miles, or in a straight

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