

He was a man five feet nine and a half inches in height and apparently of good physique, but his life was shortened by the free use of brandy and rum which were so plentiful among the traders in the West at that time. He had four sons at least, namely, Thomas, George, Charles and Peter. Thomas was employed by the Hudson's Bay Company as a writer and George as a boatman. In the accounts for 1821 the father makes the following remarks with regard to these two men.—“Thomas very handy, rather addicted to rum, George active, a Moose hunter.”

Fidler himself was a hard worker, but was of an irascible disposition with comparatively little consideration for the weaknesses or failings of others. He was a diligent student and fond of reading. In the Library at York is a manuscript book of mathematical problems worked out by him, and a large number of the printed books in the Library are inscribed with his name and have evidently been contributed to the Library by him. Most of these are on mathematical subjects of some kind, many of them being such books as “The Nautical Almanac,” “The Diary Companion, being a supplement to The Ladies' Diary,” “The Gentlemen's Diary, or The Mathematical Repository.” Others are on Biblical chronology. In addition to which there is the “Monthly Magazine” for a number of years.

In those of his journals which I had the privilege of inspecting there is only one record of a survey, namely, that of the South Saskatchewan River from the point where it joins the North Saskatchewan up to Chesterfield House, but it is quite clear that a number of other surveys were made by him, for the map of the North-West Territories, which is now in the possession of Mr. White, of the Commission of Conservation, shows indubitable evidence of such surveys.

At the present time it has not been possible for me to give more than a few notes from the journals of this old pioneer trader and explorer, but they may throw a little additional light on some of the early history of Western Canada.