

THE YUKON

(Called by the Russians Kwikhpak)

Was discovered in 1840 by Mr. R. Campbell, an officer of the Hudson's Bay Co., and named by him the Pelly, six years later Mr. J. Bell, of the same company, named the main stream the Yukon.

The Yukon District comprises, speaking generally, that part of the North-west Territory lying west of the water shed of the Mackenzie River; most of it is drained by the Yukon River and its tributaries. It covers a distance of about 650 miles along the river from the coast range of mountains.

The first people from civilization to enter the country were the traders for the Hudson's Bay Company. In the year 1840 Mr. Campbell (late of Merchiston ranch, Riding Mountain, Manitoba) and the owner of the only herd of Highland cattle in America, was commissioned by Sir George Simpson to explore the Upper Liard and to cross the height-of-land in search of any river flowing to the westward. After ascending the river to its head waters he struck across the head of the Pelly River, thence down the Pelly to the confluence of the Lewis, at which point he turned back, his men having become discouraged by the stories of the Wood Indians encamped there, who represented that the lower portion of the river was inhabited by a large tribe of cannibals. In 1847 Fort Yukon was established at the mouth of the Porcupine by Mr. A. H. Murray another member of the Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1848 Campbell established Fort Selkirk at the confluence of the Pelly and Lewis Rivers; it was plundered and destroyed in 1852 by the Coast Indians, and only the ruins now exist of what was at one time the most important post of the Hudson's Bay Company to the west of the Rocky Mountains in the far north. In 1869 the Hudson's Bay Company's officer was expelled from Fort Yukon by the United States Government, they having ascertained by astronomical observations that the post was not located in British territory. The officer thereupon ascended

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