

Three years later Mackenzie explored the Peace river, and crossed over to the Pacific, being the first white man to cross the continent north of Mexico.

In 1821 the two fur trading companies, finding that their profits were being reduced by competition, amalgamated under the name of the older company, and thus was ended one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the Northern Interior of Canada.

In 1819 Franklin made his first journey into the Mackenzie basin, when he explored the Coppermine river and a part of the Arctic coast to the east, a journey which cost him the lives of many of his party. In 1825 he made a second and more successful trip to the mouth of the Mackenzie and along the coast to the east and west.

Franklin's journeys mark the beginning of much Arctic exploration, and in the succeeding years the Mackenzie was traversed by such men as Dease, Simpson, Rae, Richardson and many others. Many of these explorers were sent out to search for traces of Franklin's last expedition, from which neither he nor any of his party ever returned.

Much of the details of geographical work in the Mackenzie basin was filled in by the officers of the Hudson Bay Company, but few of them considered it worth while to record their observations in writing or were trained for that kind of work. In more recent times, Father Petitot did a great deal of unobtrusive exploratory work, and later still we have such men as Macoun, McConnell, Ogilvie, Russell, Bell, Preble and many others. The most important geographical and geological work in this field in the present generation is that of McConnell, whose expeditions in 1887-88 and later, added more to our knowledge of the geology and natural resources of the region than any other expeditions since.

There is still much exploratory work to be done, and there are many blank spaces on the map of the Mackenzie basin to be filled in.

UNEXPLORED AREA.

In 1890, Dr. George Dawson, in a paper before the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, made an estimate of the area of unexplored territory in Canada, exclusive of the islands of the Arctic. His results were obtained in this way. All lines along which reasonably satisfactory explorations had been made, he gave a width of 50 miles, that is to say, he assumed that the explorer learned something of the country 25 miles on either