

for the post taken out. The load was quickly shifted and made secure, and, with a snap of the long whip and a "Hoop-la!" Pierre was off into the darkness of the night, leaving behind the worn-out driver and the tired dogs standing in the welcome ruddy glow of the open doorway.

At Fort Norman, the Hudson's Bay Company had a garden, with turnips, potatoes and other vegetables. The potato vines were from six to ten inches long, and did not promise a good yield. The Roman Catholic Mission had about an acre under cultivation, the soil being of better quality, and the potato vines nearly covering the

summer and much retarded vegetation. The Roman Catholic missionary told me that in twenty years' residence at the place, he did not recollect such a cool, damp, cloudy summer.

On the east side of the river, two miles below Fort Norman, a limestone ridge, known as "Bear Rock," rises one thousand five hundred feet above the water, and maintains this height for some distance northward from the Mackenzie. All along the river here, the main range of the Rocky Mountains was occasionally in sight. I tried to locate the most prominent peaks by triangulation, but, on account of continuous wet weather during the whole



H. B. CO.'S RESIDENCE AND STORE, FT. SIMPSON, MACKENZIE RIVER.

ground. The Anglican missionary had planted a smaller piece of ground near the river, on a sheltered bench below the top of the bank and facing south. Here the growth was much stronger than at either of the other places. Some barley had been sown in it, and was well-grown, the stalks averaging from two to two and a half feet high, and the heads being long and just beginning to fill. The growth of grass on this flat is luxuriant. Near the edge of the woods, wild vetches grow as long and as vigorously as near Edmonton. Every one complained of the cold, wet weather which prevailed during the

summer, I did not succeed as well as I wished, although I continued this work to within a few miles of Fort Simpson. The data thus collected, when placed on my map, will permit an approximate location of the main range for the future maps of the district. In most cases, the angular altitudes of the peaks were noted, so that their heights and positions can both be given. At Fort Norman, the mountains are not more than twenty miles distant, but, just south of that point, they turn away from the river, and are not visible for some distance.

In 1844, Fort Norman stood twenty-three miles above its present site, on the west bank, but when that fort was built I could not learn. During the occupation of that site, one evening the occupants of the fort observed that the water in the river was falling very rapidly. They, however, retired to sleep, not expecting any danger. Early in the morning they were aroused by finding the water in their houses floating them out of bed.