

pany in 1839, and he speaks of the Snake river as the main stream; but his sketch and description of the lower part of the Peel are so inaccurate, that it is difficult to say how much faith to put in his account of the Snake river. At its junction with the Peel, the Snake river, on July 21, had a width of 350 feet, with a maximum depth of nine feet. The water is a dirty gray colour, flowing at the rate of four miles an hour, and it occupies a valley seven hundred feet deep and about half a mile wide.

The Snake river was explored for a distance of twenty-five miles, and except that there was a slightly accelerated current and many islands, the general character of the stream was unchanged. From one of the neighbouring hills its course through the plateau could be traced for about fifty miles above the Peel, flowing in a northwesterly direction from near the eastern border of the Ogilvie range of mountains. The valley has a cañon-like appearance, bounded by steep banks of fossiliferous soft gray and reddish sandstones, which lie horizontally or are only slightly inclined.

The angle between the Snake river and the upper part of the Peel is occupied by a wide timbered flat. On this spruce trees, tall and straight, with a diameter of 24 inches were common. Birch is also fairly abundant, but few specimens attain a greater diameter than six inches. The other trees are tamarack and balsam poplar with alders and willows.

PEEL RIVER (Continued).

On mingling its waters with those of the Snake river, the Peel river turns off sharply at a right angle to its former course, and down to Fort McPherson trends a few degrees west of north. From the Snake river to the Fort is a distance of 147 miles, and in this section there is little variation in the general character of the valley. The valley itself has an average width of one mile, the greater part of which is usually taken up with gravel bars or wooded flats, and it is bounded by banks of clay, sandstone or shale, which vary in height from 600 to 1,000 feet. The average velocity of the current gradually decreases, and though it frequently attains a speed of eight it often drops to about two miles per hour.

For thirty-five miles below Snake river it has an absolutely straight course of almost true north, when it bends gradually towards the west, and flows in a general northwesterly direction as far as Satah river, being joined on the way by George creek from the east, and Cariboo and Trail creeks from the west.

George creek is an insignificant stream only about forty feet wide and a few inches deep, having a brownish water probably drawn from muskeg lakes to the east.