

head of Howe Sound. I suppose the distance from the Indian village to the head of Howe Sound to be 25 or 30 miles, it occupied us about two hours and a half. The Squāwmisht River averages a width of 50 yards in its course downwards; delta are frequent; and numerous streams are seen diverging by islets formed by river-deposits and consequent settlement by vegetation; sand-bars are frequently passed, tenanted by Indians engaged in fishing; and, as the river widens, rich plateaus of land are seen on either side occupied by Indian villages and potato-fields. The river has apparently some depth, the chief assuring me that steamers could ascend to the village we left, much better than to Port Douglas. The water is derived from the snow; and I should consequently suppose decreasing during the summer, and towards autumn leaving an almost dry river-bed. I slept one night on the port-hand of Howe Sound (descending), and reached Port Woody, at the head of Burrard Inlet, next day about half-past 6. Hauling the canoe up, I started by trail for New Westminster, reaching Esquimalt next day by steamer" (14th July).

I left the village at the same time as Dr. Wood, and with my party in two canoes proceeded up the Squāwmisht River. It took us nearly two hours to get about 4 miles, the river being full of rapids, eddies, and sandbanks, so that we had to cross and recross several times. Its average width was 100 yards, and direction north-east. We landed on the left bank at half-past 3, having gone about 4 miles by water, and shortly afterwards camped.

On the following morning I commenced the ascent, which would form the principal difficulty to making a road by this route, and reached the summit shortly after noon, the aneroid giving an elevation of 2000 feet above our starting-place. By the way we went, about 400 feet of this ascent would be rather steep for a road; but I feel confident, from the general appearance, a more easy grade could be found without difficulty. From this to Port Pemberton was a gradual descent, and though there were some hills to cross, and a great deal of thick bush and rough walking, we met nothing that would form a serious impediment to an engineer.

After passing the summit, our way lay along a gorge by the side of a stream till we came to an abrupt hill, crossing which brought us to a small lake, called, I believe, Daisy Lake, and here we halted for the night. Starting next morning we crossed another hill and immediately came upon the Tsē-ār-k-ānisht River, which is here 40 or 50 yards wide, running through a large basin, which appears as if it had been lately inundated; indeed, had it not been for the dead trees still standing, I should have taken it for the bed of a lake from which the water had recently receded. We had no difficulty in crossing the river on the dead wood which completely blocks it up at this point, and we then continued along the basin over sand and boulders of granite and trap, about 2 miles, when we came to that part where the river is still over its banks, as described by Mr. M'Kay in his published letter. From this point we followed up the route by which he came down, but from this to Howe Sound he went down the valley of the Tsē-ār-k-ānisht, and consequently down the east side of the valley at the head of the Sound, while I had come up partly by Squāwmisht valley, and partly by a lateral valley between the two rivers. Judging from his information, his way was quite as good, if not better, than mine. He describes the whole ascent as gradual, with the exception of 300 or 400 feet at the commencement; and even this, he says, is not very steep. I kept along the left bank of this river about 6 miles, when we came to a small cañon; and about 2 miles beyond this we again crossed the river on the dead wood, and camped. This cañon could easily be avoided by bridging the river a short distance below it—an operation by no means difficult, as the bank on the right side is low and level.

A 5-mile walk next day brought us to a lake which extends about 10 miles in a north-easterly direction, averaging 1 mile in width. I have called it