

down Slave River to Great Slave Lake, and across the lake into the Mackenzie River, down the Mackenzie to the mouth of Peel River and up that stream to Fort McPherson, 1,950 miles from Edmonton. From Fort McPherson there is a difficult portage of 90 miles to La Pierre House, on Bell River, a tributary of the Porcupine. There a boat is constructed and the journey by water resumed. It is 40 miles from La Pierre House to the mouth of Bell River, whence the traveler descends the Porcupine 300 miles to Fort Yukon, situated on the Yukon just above the mouth of the Porcupine. There is an offshoot of the Edmonton route known as the Peace River route. This trail runs to the northwestward from Edmonton to the west end of Little Slave Lake, about 200 miles, thence to Peace River, 85 miles, and thence to Fort Dunvegan, 60 miles. Beyond Fort Dunvegan, which is about 1,000 miles in an air line from Dawson, little is known of the trail, but it is supposed to lead through alternating forests, barrens, and mountain ranges to the Liard River, and thence to the headwaters of the Pelly River, from which point the journey can be completed in boats. According to newspaper accounts, several hundred men chose this route last fall, but as no one could be found in Dawson late in June who had succeeded in getting over the trail, it is impossible to describe it. There are numerous dangerous rapids in the Athabasca and Slave rivers, and great care is required in passing down those streams. A small steamboat runs on the Athabasca River from Athabasca Landing to Grand Rapids, a distance of 165 miles, and steamboats run between Fort Smith, on Slave River, and Fort McPherson, a distance of 1,270 miles, but as they are employed exclusively in the transportation of supplies for the Hudson Bay Company, they are not available for passenger traffic. On June 2 two young men arrived at Fort Yukon from Edmonton. They started from that place on August 9 of last year, passing down the Athabasca, Slave, and Mackenzie rivers, and arrived at the mouth of Arctic Red River September 30. They were forced to discontinue their journey by boat at this point by the heavy run of ice in the Mackenzie, and made the portage of 100 miles to La Pierre House, where they spent the winter, their only companions being a few half-starved Porcupine Indians. It required two months of hard labor to sled their outfit across the portage. They left La Pierre House on May 30, and the next day, while shooting the rapids at the lower end of the Upper Ramparts of the Porcupine, their boat was capsized and swept away with the remnant of their outfit, and they were left struggling in the ice-cold water. In an exhausted condition they succeeded in reaching an exposed rock in mid-stream, to which they clung for twenty-four hours, when they were rescued by two prospectors who were descending the river and taken to Fort Yukon, penniless and without a change of clothing. They reported that they passed 800 men last fall en route from Edmonton to the Klondike, but up to June 27 they were the only ones of this large number who had reached Fort Yukon. Here they were greatly surprised to