

westerly direction. The river is frequently blocked by trees which have been detached from the banks and accumulated in the narrow parts of the river, thus backing up the water, which spreads over the banks and forces it to cut new channels through the bottom lands. On the opposite side of the river the bottom land begins at the Nisutlin and stretches towards the north, where it is bounded by a sandy ridge, a projection of the eastern range of mountains. This strip of land extends to the foot of the mountains on the east and is generally boggy. The river, after receiving a tributary from the west, skirts the extremity of a ridge which it afterwards closely follows for miles. We had now reached a section of the river which is narrow and full of boulders and was difficult to ascend. We were obliged to drag our boats through it; the water being swift, three feet deep and icy cold. Our progress was so slow that I decided to abandon the boats for the time being and to continue the exploration on foot. Taking with us the instruments and supplies for a few days we proceeded by the western side of the valley, which seemed to promise the best travelling. Where we left our boats the stream divides into three channels, formed by two islands timbered with spruce. One mile above the islands there is a gorge formed by spurs from the high ranges of mountains which rise on each side of the river. Above the gorge a turbulent stream enters the river from the east; after which the valley widens again and the velocity of the current is greatly reduced; in some sections it is less than two miles an hour. A cursory examination of the country ahead of us was made from the top of a hill rising three hundred feet above the river; it showed that the western side of the valley was the least broken and would afford the best route for our exploration. Beyond the gorge our path led at times through forests and over sandy ridges in order to avoid marshy lakes caused by the overflow of the river during the freshet; at other times it crossed prairies and stretches of brushy lands on the points formed by the bends of the river.

As we moved up the valley, the mountains to our left became very rugged, bold blue several hundred feet high face the river while further inland they break into sharp peaks rising to a great altitude. The mountains east of the river, on the other hand, slope gently towards the river. Their slopes are still to a certain extent forest clad, but near the river all the timber has been killed by fire and the trees are now thickly strewn over the ground. After crossing several creeks we came to a point where the main valley breaks into two smaller ones; the one to the right hand side continues in a northerly direction and is the valley of the Rose river, while the other one is from the north-west and contains a large tributary. The distance between the mouth of the river and the forks is twenty miles. I established my last camp on this river near the mouth of a large creek which comes from the east and enters the river at two and a half miles above the forks. I had now proceeded far enough inland to gain a complete knowledge of the sources of this stream, provided I could succeed in climbing some of the high neighbouring peaks which tower above the valley. From our camp the valley of the Rose river lies between two high ranges of mountains; the valley itself is probably more than three thousand feet above the level of the sea.

During our stay in this district heavy rains fell continuously, and hardly a day passed without severe hail storms. We now noticed with apprehension that the snow line on the mountains was getting lower after each storm and that very soon the valley itself would be covered with snow. The leaves were now lying thickly over the frozen ground, a sure sign that the winter season with its many discomforts was fast approaching.

On September 7, after a very laborious climb of seven hours, I reached the top of a peak forming the southern extremity of the range of mountains rising between both streams, but discovered that the view to the north, which I specially wanted to photograph, was intercepted by a row of higher peaks which, however owing to their great distance could not be reached the same day. I, however, did considerable work from the station now occupied, and the next day by daylight I was on my way to those peaks, from whose tops I expected to photograph the head waters of the Rose river. The day proved to be a very bright one though cold. By noon we had attained the highest point, 8,700 feet above the level of the sea.

The scenery is equal to, if not grander than, anything I have seen in the Rocky Mountains, there are such contrasts. At our feet lay the river, like a silver ribbon,