

will, of course, understand that errors in count may have occurred, few Indians counting reliably, but I think that it is quite safe to say that about the number stated are left. Some eight or nine were killed last winter, but as I tried and punished those who killed them it is thought in the country, and is hoped by me, that no more depredations will occur. I understand that there has been an increase, since the animals were protected, of perhaps a couple of hundred, and it would appear to be only necessary to continue vigorous protective measures in order to perpetuate the herd. It is noticeable that the fur of the Wood Buffalo, owing no doubt to climatic conditions, is longer and thicker than was that of its brother of the plains, and it has that straightness and thickness which characterizes that of the Musk Ox.

I was informed that it was never safe to count upon Great Slave Lake being open before July 1st.

On 23rd July we had exceedingly hot weather, but the nights continued pleasant and cool.

Four tribes of Indians, representatives of which had never before entered into treaty relations with the Crown, were dealt with, namely, the Slave or Slavey Indians of Hay River, the Dogribs, the Yellowknives, and the Cariboo Eaters. The habitat of the Dogribs is to the north and south of the central portion of Great Slave Lake; the Yellowknives come from Fond du Lac or Great Slave Lake near old Fort Reliance; the Slaves inhabit the Hay River basin, and the Cariboo Eaters, the country east of Slave River.

On September 6th we experienced frost, and on September 13th had a very cold storm of rain and sleet with some frost. The leaves along the Athabasca had changed colour and were falling from September 3rd.

I do not understand the naming of the Great Slave River. It is in fact identical with Peace River; yet, after the waters from Lake Athabasca enter it, making no appreciable difference in its size or course, its name changes to the Great Slave. Locally it seems to be as often called the "Peace" as it is the "Great Slave."

With my report in the blue book of the Department of Indian Affairs will be published a map that may interest you showing