

A JOURNEY FROM THE YUKON TO THE MACKENZIE.

By JOSEPH KEELE.

THE CIVILIAN has already published several extracts from Mr. Keele's report, which is to be issued shortly in full by the Geological Survey.]

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On the morning of April 24, the men went hunting, as we had been without meat for several days, and there were signs of moose in the vicinity. Riddell returned in the afternoon, bringing the giblets of a small cow moose which he had shot on a hillside near timber line. They went out again early next morning, while the crust on the snow was hard, taking the dogs and sled to haul the moose into camp. The snow thawed in the shade to-day, for the first time this winter.

On the 26th we shovelled the snow from a patch of ground on the low bank beside the river and built a wall three logs high, over which we set our winter tent. This arrangement gave us a comfortable house with ample head room.

On the 28th two small birds appeared, and fed on the patch of bare ground near the tent. The river was opening in several places, and the

snow was too soft for snowshoeing during the greater part of the day.

Riddell went out about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 29th, and returned at 6, having killed a small bull moose in a canyon about one mile from the camp during his absence. This moose was hung up at the camp by 8 a.m., a process almost as expeditious as going to the market for meat.

On the 29th, both men went hunting and were away nearly all day. Christie returned unsuccessful, having followed a moose for a long distance, but without getting near enough to shoot. Riddell returned about dark, very tired, but contented, having killed the largest bull moose of the season. This animal was hauled into camp shortly after daybreak next morning. All the meat that we did not require for our own use was cut up and dried in the sun for dog feed. The three mooseskins were scraped clean of hair and flesh, to be used in the construction of a boat later on.

On May 3, two mallard ducks came down to the open patch of water near our camp, and on the 8th the first wild geese were seen, a flock of waveys about forty in number flying toward the divide. We saw ducks frequently afterwards, but almost always on the wing, as they do not breed on this river; consequently we got no fresh eggs, as we might have, had we been on the Yukon side where the great nesting sites are.

On the 11th we saw the fresh track of a grizzly bear on the snow about a

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