

opposite Fort Kamloop, and, crossing the river in a canoe, reached the fort about 10 o'clock A.M. on the 14th of May.

Fort Kamloop is situated at the forks of the Thompson and North rivers, on the north bank of the former and the west bank of the latter, and is one of the prettiest sites in the country. It is at the east end of a prairie about 10 miles long by 1 to 2 miles wide, which would be very valuable land were it not so low that it is always flooded in the summer. The year before last the fort itself was flooded so much that it had to be abandoned until the water fell.

The Thompson was about 300 yards wide at Kamloop when I was there, and the North River 320 yards. There is nothing of the rushing current here that there is in every other river we met, and in this river also lower down; and the contrast is so great as to give quite a sluggish appearance to the river, which quietly winds along about 3 knots an hour, though of course it must be much more in Midsummer.

Mr. McLean considers the soil here as good, though not so fine as at the head waters of the Thompson, about 22 miles east of this, or in the Semilkamen Valley, which he considers the best place in the colony for an agricultural settlement. The land about Fort Alexandria where he resided for several years, he also considers better than this, though more subject to frost. But I believe it is a great though common error to suppose that crops are destroyed nearly every year by frost at places even further north than Alexandria, once in four or five years being a fair average. Great quantities of potatoes are grown at the head of both Thompson and North rivers by the Indians, but nothing else has been tried. At Kamloop vegetables of all kinds thrive very well. A bushel of wheat there yields on an average 15 bushels. Mr. McLean says that at Alexandria he has known it yield 40.

There is considerable trade now carried on across the American frontier, and through Kamloop to the Fraser, and to the small rivers branching off from the Thompson, on nearly all of which there are or have been miners working. A great quantity of spirits and other things were smuggled into the country this way last year.

Gold has been found in the rivers Tranquille, Defont, Nicola, and Nicaomen, and silver in the latter, by Mr. McLean, and I believe he sent the first gold that was found in British Columbia from the last-named river. He assured me also that he had seen copper obtained by the Indians from a mine on the north bank of the Shushwap Lake, so pure that they made arrow-heads, pipe-stems, &c., of it.

There is a trail from this to Fort Hope which is always used by the servants of the Hudson Bay Company for transporting their goods to and from the northern parts. It is, however, dangerous in some parts, and a number of horses are lost each time the fur-brigade comes down. There is a bad swamp 7 or 8 miles long, and a steep mountain, Manson Mountain, both of which they have to cross. It takes them ten or fifteen days to go from Kamloop to Hope; but I am told that, travelling without luggage, it could be done in three or four days. A man has gone from Kamloop to Langley in five days.

The Indians all over the country suffered fearfully from want of food last winter, a great many dying of starvation. It was owing in a great measure to their improvidence, most of them leaving off the fishing, hunting, &c., last summer in the general mania for gold-digging, and making no provision for the winter. This state of things accounts for the number of thefts perpetrated on miners and others by them, their only choice in most cases being to steal or die. I think they can hardly be wondered at for preferring the former.

We left Kamloop for the Pavillon on the 17th May, and rode along the north bank of the Shushwap Lake as far as Tranquille River; after fording

*Kamloop Lake.*