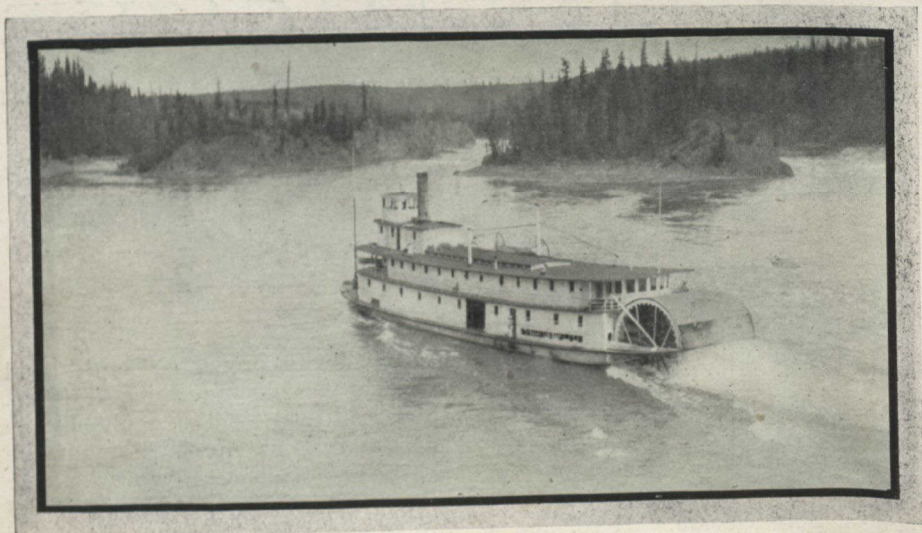


nerve-racking ride on the stages into an automobile excursion. The experiment happily proved a success, and the ride from Ashcroft over the famous old Cariboo Road in this modern lux-

pleted during the summer. A snapshot of the first to be placed in commission is here shown, the picture taken as she was entering the rough waters of the Fort George Canyon.



A "STERN-WHEELER" ENTERING FORT GEORGE CANYON

urious manner, to the village of Soda Creek on the Fraser River, was a delightful experience, and one which will long remain a pleasant memory. To the awe-stricken natives the flight of the big car seemed a revelation of the infinite, and it was indeed small wonder that they gazed at us in open-mouthed amazement.

A few scattered dwellings, built mostly of logs, a post-office, store and telegraph-office, with the customary saloon, constitute the village of Soda Creek, at which point we boarded the steamer for our trip up the Fraser. The village derives its name from a small creek running near it, the waters of which contain carbonate of sodium. Here all the steamers operating on the Upper Fraser have been constructed, the materials having been hauled into the country on freight waggons at great expense. There were three new boats under course of construction; all of which were com-

This steamer during the summer revolutionised navigation on the river and maintained a semi-weekly service, affording a comfortable and pleasant mode of travel. The trip up river earlier in the season was hardly so pleasant; in fact the discomforts were its most noticeable features. However, the object of my fellow travellers and myself was to reach the little town in the north, and we were fortunate in finding ourselves on board the *Nechaco*, the "Pathfinder of the Interior."

By great good fortune I secured accommodation for several horses purchased in the Sheep Creek Country to the south. These were to be used for riding and packing purposes. One would travel extensively before beholding such a heterogeneous cargo as that carried on the old *Nechaco* that trip. In addition to horses, pigs, chickens, and farm implements, there were stoves, beds, baled hay, flour and