

NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY IN 1899, FROM GREAT
SLAVE LAKE TO BEACHY LAKE, ON THE
GREAT FISH RIVER.

From the Journal of Mr. James M. Kinley, officer in charge at Fort Resolution, H. B. Co.
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the walking on the ice very bad. Collected all the small drift willows at the points passed, as there is no wood here. Made about five or six miles and camped on a low point a short distance from a small river that falls in on this side the lake. The banks of this lake appear to be low and covered with grass, gradually rising as they recede from the lake. The Indians are now nearly all carrying canoes on their sleds, picked up here and there, where they had been cached on the route.

“ June 27th. - Followed the north shore of the lake, and found it nearly level and good walking, but had to take the ice to avoid streams which were open. The north shore continued level, but we crossed a deep bay where the hills came to the lake again. Here we camped on a small island after travelling about eight miles. Willows, etc., for firewood, have to be carried on our sleds from wherever they can be picked up.

“ June 28th. - Started off again in a north east direction, making about eight miles. We have kept the north side of the lake all along. It is indented by many long bays, and dotted with islands. A greater portion of the hill sides are grassy slopes, and the level plateaus covered with moss and grass, with here and there ridges of rocks and stones. There seems quite enough feed for horses and cattle in summer, but there is not a sign of anything in the shape of bushes large enough to make a fire. Moss is the only thing in this region that will burn. The canoe route to Slave Lake stretches away to the south east, through an arm of this lake, then through several other lakes connected by the Lockhart River, to the eastern end of Slave Lake. From the western extremity of McKay Lake to the eastern end of this lake is about one hundred and fifty miles, general course, east and west, all of good navigable water. The route to Fish River from here is north east to the end of the bay running in that direction, then a portage of some length to the headwaters of that river.