

DRIA, A. 1900

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SESSIONAL PAPER No. 13

(Sept. Indian 1889)

regular whirlpool, that our chances of making a landing were gone, and that we were being relentlessly carried to our doom by the stream, whose velocity kept increasing every minute. Barely two hundred yards ahead of us the river was completely blocked by an ice jam under which the water rushed. The channel had now dwindled to only a few yards in width, but the ice on each side was only slush, which would not bear any weight. I realized that only a very slim chance of escape remained to us, and this was to try and prevent the boat from drifting across the stream; in this we were successful and it certainly saved us.

With the timely assistance of some miners who were camped in the vicinity, the boat was unloaded and brought ashore. They informed me that the river was blocked with ice for a distance of six miles, which could only be overcome by making a portage. The next day everything was carried across the country to open water and the descent of the river resumed. By night we arrived safely at the Big Salmon river post, where we were cordially received by Constable Drewry of the North-west Mounted Police. He informed us that there might possibly be another boat from Dawson, but as the season was far advanced I thought it safer not to delay, but started at once up the river. Two days later the steamer *Flora* overtook us when within eight miles of Teslin river post. Whitehorse rapid was reached three days later. A delay of a few days occurred at the end of Miles Canyon before another steamer put in her appearance. This was the *Gilbourne*, a steel vessel, which brought us safely to Lake Bennett. From this point Skagway was reached in good time, and Victoria on November 6. A week later I reported at Ottawa, where I have since been busy preparing, from the notes and photographs taken, a map of the country explored during the past season.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR SAINT CYR, D.L.S.

APPENDIX No. 21 TO THE REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL.

REPORT OF J. J. McARTHUR, D.L.S.

EXPLORATION OF STEWART RIVER AND MACMILLAN RIVER VALLEY.

OTTAWA, July 5, 1899.

E. DEVILLE, Esq.,
Surveyor General,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to report to you on the exploration survey, carried on by me last season of the country drained by the Stewart and MacMillan rivers in the Yukon Territory.

I left Ottawa, April 18, 1898. I had some difficulty in getting suitable horses in Vancouver and vicinity, and was afterwards compelled to wait for transportation to Skagway. The C. P. R. ships took the outside passage and refused to carry deck loads of live stock. I finally arranged for accommodation on the C. P. N. steamer *Islander* and sailed on May 14. We arrived at Skagway on the 20th. The company engaged a tug and lighter which landed us at Haine's Mission on the 21st. The United States custom authorities at Skagway, although satisfied that ours was a Canadian government