

SCOUTS OF EMPIRE

seemed to be the most promising of these channels, Fraser finally came in sight of a small bay or arm of the sea. Following the right shore, he paddled up a little river to a village of the Coast Indians. The natives fled at his approach, but returned after a time, brandishing their war clubs from a safe distance. Re-embarking, the explorer continued his course to a second village, but did not think it prudent to disembark.

His provisions were now completely exhausted, and from the attitude of the natives there seemed very little prospect of renewing the supply. Very reluctantly, therefore, Fraser turned about and ran rapidly upstream with the tide, encamping near a village of friendly Indians. He confesses his disappointment in not seeing the main ocean, but, after all, this was a very minor consideration. He had achieved the extraordinary task of tracing one of the most unnavigable of rivers from its upper waters to the sea, and had established the very important fact