

sized balsam poplar, cut it down and made the following measurements of it: diameter at stump, exclusive of bark, 29 inches; diameter at first limb, exclusive of bark, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches; from stump to first limb, 90 feet; number of growth rings, 145. The bark would add at least four inches to the diameters given. I have often thought that the bark of this tree would answer some of the purposes to which cork is applied. All the way up the East Branch River, moose and deer tracks were very numerous and fresh, but we never saw any of them, for the simple reason that we had no time to take the necessary precaution, long before we were in range of vision, to prevent them seeing us.

I arrived at Fort Nelson in the afternoon of September 15th, and much against my will had to remain until the morning of the 22nd. The 16th, 17th, and 18th were three days of continuous rain, which culminated on the 19th in a heavy downfall of sleet which clung to the trees and so loaded them that thousands of them bent and broke. No one at the post remembered any such catastrophe, as it may appropriately be termed, and certainly the forest furnished no evidence of such a meteorological phenomenon. The forest will bear witness of this one for generations, in the numerous broken trunks of trees of all sizes.

The evening of the 20th was clear and cold, and the clearness of the sky enabled me to fix the position of this

point as latitude $58^{\circ} 49' 18''$, longitude $122^{\circ} 54' 06''$.

I found there were only three or four Indians here, and of these only one knew anything of the route by which I proposed to reach Peace River. His trip through to that river had been made when he was a child, consequently his recollections of the route and its direction and difficulties were not very trustworthy. Besides, as he was a cripple, his services as a man would have been *nil*, while as a guide they would have been very doubtful. The Indians attached to the post were expected in from their summer's hunt in a few days: in fact it was known that some of them were only a short distance up the river, waiting for the rest to join them before they came in.

There were two bands under two chiefs due. It appears to be a rule that both must come into the post accompanied by all the members of their bands together. A rendezvous and time are appointed at which they meet and



EAST BRANCH LIARD RIVER,
About 15 miles above the Forks.

enter the post together, and from this rule they will not depart unless under stress of want. At their entry the two chiefs, seated in their canoes (when entry is made in the summer), with a