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THREE YEARS

IN

CARIBOO:

By JO. LINDLEY,

BEING THE EXPERIENCE AND OBSERVATIONS OF A PACKER,

What I saw and know of the Country; Its Traveled Routes, Distances, Villages, Mines, Trade and Prospects.

WITH

Distances, Notes and Facts, Relative to the

Salmon River and Nez Perces Gold Fields.

By T. R. OLNEY.

SAN FRANCISCO:
PUBLISHED BY A. ROSENFIELD.
TOWNE & BACON, PRINTERS.
1862.

INTRODUCTION.

THE object of the following pages is, to furnish reliable information to those who are determined to help swell the great wave of adventure now flowing towards the newly discovered— and if recent accounts are reliable— fabulously rich gold fields of Washington Territory and British Columbia.

The publisher, for the sale of this work, does not rely upon the size of his volume, its well rounded sentences or its promises of wealth to the adventurous gold seeker, so much as upon its accuracy and reliability, as a guide to the traveler, in his progress towards his enchanted, because *far off*, El Dorado.

THE PUBLISHER.

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See Sheepshanks letter Brit. Columbian Oct 8, 11, 1862. for description of trails in 1862.

ROUTE TO CARIBOO.

	MILES.
From San Francisco, by steamer,	
TO VICTORIA, V. I., about	800
From Victoria to New Westminster, the Capital of British Columbia, on the north bank of Fraser River, by steamer	100
From New Westminster, by steamer, to the mouth of	
HARRISON RIVER	45
Continue by steamer up Harrison River to	
HARRISON LAKE	5
Continue by steamer to north end of Harrison Lake,	
TO PORT DOUGLASS	45
Now over a fine road on foot or in wagon—called a stage—with eating houses and whisky shops at convenient distances,	
TO LITTLE LILLOET LAKE	29
Here take steamer, sail or row-boat,	
TO END OF LAKE	7
Now an easy portage on foot or wagon	
TO PEMBERTON LAKE, nearly	2
Cross the Lake by steamer	
TO PEMBERTON CITY	17
Almost anything in the line of provisions or clothing can be obtained here, with good hotel accommodations.	
Now a good road	
TO HALF WAY HOUSE	14
A good road again	

TO ANDERSON LAKE, AND VILLAGE.. 15
Good accommodations here.
Now by steamer again
TO END OF LAKE..... 16
Now an easy portage on foot
TO SEATON LAKE, less than..... 2
Now by steamer
TO EAST END OF LAKE..... 16
Again on foot or wagon
TO LILLOET VILLAGE, nearly..... 4

Here cross the Fraser river by ferry to Cayoosh Flat, or Parsonsville, and we are now distant, by the route taken, from New Westminster, two hundred and seventeen miles; from Victoria, three hundred and seventeen miles. This is the grand rendezvous of the Cariboo and Upper Fraser river packers; and as we are now done with steamers, stages and wagons, let the last one hundred and fifty miles admonish the Cariboo adventurer of the necessities requisite to enable him to perform a journey of one hundred and ninety miles entirely on foot, or at best on mule back but a small part of the way; for though the trip thus far may have proved an easy one, you may now expect to encounter hardship and exposure, though you may escape real danger.

A sufficiency of good, warm clothing and blankets is indispensable; and yet to carry a single blanket or a pound weight of extra boots or clothing of any description, lugs down the physical man, and should be avoided by transferring all extra weight to the regular packer. This enables you to get through from six to eight days sooner than when you pack your own animals, or, hiring it done, accompany the packers; for no pack train over this route can move as far by eight or ten miles a day, as men can unencumbered by animals and all unnecessary weight.

The whole distance from Cayoosh Flat to the Forks of the Quesnell, can be accomplished without carrying more than one day's food at any time, if you have the means to procure it at the several stations named, along the route; but the distances must be made daily, or camping out on short allowance is inevitable.

Packers, carrying tents and provisions, do not make the reaching of the stations a necessity, but camp where food and water can be procured for their animals.

From Lilloet there is a trail leading up the west bank of the Fraser river to Express Bar eighteen miles, thence to Big Bar fifteen miles, and crossing the Fraser unites with the main trail on the east bank. From Cayoosh Flat, opposite Lilloet, to William's Lake on the Cariboo route, there are two trails: one known as the River Trail, that for the greater part of the way lies along or near the east bank of Fraser river; the other the Brigade Trail, that leads off from Fraser river in a north-easterly direction till it strikes a tributary of Thompson's river, then north to Lahache Lake, then west to William's Lake, where it unites with the River Trail. The Brigade Trail is the longest route by more than thirty miles, but much the best for pack animals, the River Trail being really dangerous for the transit of even the surest footed mule.

DISTANCES BY THE BRIGADE TRAIL.

From Cayoosh Flat, through a timbered country,

TO THE FOUNTAIN..... 8

Now over a fine, rolling, timbered country,

TO THE PAVILION..... 12

Now a fine trail

TO GOOD CAMPING..... 14
Thence over a muddy trail
TO JOLIE PRAIRIE..... 12
Another muddy trail in part
TO LITTLE CREEK..... 12
Now a fair trail
TO GREEN LAKE..... 12
Then a low, muddy trail
TO BRIDGE..... 22
A fair trail most of the way
TO LAHACHE LAKE..... 20
Now an excellent trail along the lake
TO LAKE SHORE CAMP..... 18
Thence over a very good trail
TO WILLIAM'S LAKE..... 32
Whole distance, one hundred and sixty-two miles.

DISTANCES BY THE RIVER TRAIL.

From Cayoosh Flat
TO THE FOUNTAIN..... 8
TO THE PAVILION..... 12
Now a low, soft trail crossing Big Slide creek and on
TO LEON'S STATION..... 15
Heavy timbered country
TO BIG BAR CREEK..... 19
Soft, bad trail
TO CANOE CREEK CROSSING..... 20
Now a very fair trail
TO DOG CREEK..... 10
Now near the river and then along Alkali lake up
TO THE CROSSING..... 17
Now over a high trail, and more rolling country, crossing Chimney creek,
TO WILLIAM'S LAKE..... 27
Whole distance, one hundred and twenty-eight miles.

From William's lake

TO DAVISON'S RANCH..... 3

Here the Brigade trail leads off to the north-west, towards Fort Alexandria; the Cariboo trail in a north-easterly direction through a timbered country

TO DEEP CREEK..... 10

A more mountainous country

TO ROUND TENT..... 12

A few deep, muddy sloughs, otherwise a fair trail

TO BEAVER LAKE..... 16

Here is one of the best houses on the whole route. It is now kept by James Sellers. The country is level and well adapted to cultivation, producing fine vegetables in abundance.

Now a bad, wet, low trail

TO LITTLE LAKE..... 16

With very little improvement in the trail, you reach

THE FORKS OF THE QUESNELL..... 8

Whole distance from Cayoosh Flat by the River trail, one hundred and ninety miles.

Cross the south fork by ferry to the village of Quesnell—(pronounced, canal).

Probably by this time the most hardy adventurer on the route is beginning to be well satisfied that it is no easy matter to get to Cariboo, for though on paper I have not represented the trails to be very difficult of passage, you have doubtless found the Brigade trail bad enough, and the River trail, if you passed that way, just the worst of all trails that mortal man ever ought to think of getting over alive. Swamps and sloughs, hills, mountains, and along precipices until your head would swim; but no matter, we are now at Quesnell, another grand point on the route to Cariboo, for we are not quite there yet.

Here almost anything really required by

the miner can be obtained at fair prices, which means, five or six times as much as the same articles can be had for at Victoria ; for though a packer and interested in the sale of merchandise, I state this as true, and therefore that every man that can should obtain his outfit, provisions and tools, at Victoria, if able to pack them through ; it may cause him a deal of trouble and delay on the way, but he will save money by the operation.

Now for Cariboo, and if early in the season or before the first of June, every man must pack on his back, not only his "grub," but the necessary mining tools. Later in the season, say by first of July, animals are able to traverse most of the routes among the principal mining localities, and this is as soon as it will be found profitable to reach the mines; before this very little can be done on account of the depth of the snow.

If, however, you possess ample means to buy your meals on the way, they can be procured at the several stations along the route, but at prices that will set you thinking of your "bottom dollar," unless your purse reaches to your boots.

Well, here we go From Quesnell follow up the east bank of the north fork, cross Spanish creek, and over a very bad and difficult trail,

TO TOLL BRIDGE..... 8

Cross, and follow up the west bank to Keithley's creek, which flows into Little Cariboo lake. Here is another village of considerable pretensions, and a point from which radiate several routes. In a south-easterly direction, distant four miles, is Goose creek, that will pay from fifteen to twenty dollars a day to the man, and yet abandoned for better. North-easterly from Keithley's, distant seven miles,

is Harney's creek, along which for miles are diggings that in any other country than Cariboo would be called rich.

Keithley's may be said to be the beginning of the Cariboo mines, or the southern limit of the same.

From this point we take a mountain trail, and a hard one it is, till you make a descent

TO LITTLE CREEK..... 6

There is good camping here. Now on to Snow Shoes creek, which we follow up

TO THE CROSSING..... 8

We now cross over Snow Shoes mountain, difficult only on account of the depth of the snow, in the early part of the season, it being very deep till quite the first of June; you now pass down

TO FAIR CAMPING GROUND..... 8

Another hard tramp and you reach

ANTLER CITY..... 12

Whole distance from Quesnell to Antler City and creek, forty-two miles, and we are in Cariboo. But now "comes the tug of war," or rather mining, in the most inhospitable, rugged, rainy and snowy country that gold was ever found in I am sure; but as the advice of "only a packer" would be little heeded by old California miners, I shall content myself with finishing up my oft traveled routes, with their distances, and then with a few general remarks, leave the Cariboo miner to make a princely fortune in about the shortest time that a fortune was ever made; or, after a few, very few, brief months of disappointment, see him on his weary way back to the abodes of civilization, a wiser man in all that relates to Cariboo.

From Antler City

TO MOUNTAIN LAKE HOUSE..... 10

From the Lake House to and down Lightning creek

TO END OF CAÑON..... 10
There are rich diggings on this creek for many miles below this point. From Lightning cañon, north and west,
TO VAN WINKLE CREEK..... 12
This is a tributary of Lightning creek, and lower down is
LAST CHANCE..... 5
There is a mountain trail and more direct, from the Lake House to Last Chance, that leaves Lightning cañon and Van Winkle creek to the right and shortens the distance five or six miles.
JACK OF CLUBS CREEK heads near the Lake House. From Jack of Clubs
TO BURNS' CREEK..... 9
From thence pass over the Three Ridges
TO NELSON'S CREEK..... 6
From Nelson's
TO WILLOWS CREEK..... 4

So little is known of the country directly to the north of the present Cariboo mines, that to this day it is a matter of doubt whether Antler creek is tributary to Bear river or Willows creek, and the same is true of Grouse creek. Both run northwardly and discharge their waters into almost impenetrable—because densely timbered—swamps.

William's, Jack of Clubs, Burns' and Nelson's creeks, all of which have proved rich, with several others not yet prospected, are all tributaries of Willows creek; whilst Van Winkle, Chisolm, Last Chance, Davis, Peters, Louhie and other creeks lower down and never yet prospected, are tributaries of Lightning creek.

And now, after nearly a three years' experience in Cariboo, sometimes wielding the pick and shovel, but for the most part guiding the sometimes stubborn, but always patient mule, over mountain snows and deep morass, you would like perhaps to know just what I

think of it, as a gold producing country, and the chances for securing a fortune in it, from mining.

The extent of the mining country known even now as Cariboo, has been greatly underrated; very many have limited it to forty or fifty square miles. The fact is, it is over forty miles in extent from north to south, and as many miles, or more, from east to west, and this alone gives an area of one hundred and sixty square miles, instead of only forty. No one can deny the probability that equally rich diggings to any yet discovered, will be opened out as soon as the remaining, as well as adjoining, untouched ravines, creeks and rivers' beds shall have been prospected. I believe it to be a vastly rich gold field; but with one of the most inhospitable and rigorous climates in which man ever dug for gold, with about five chances against, to one in favor, of making a fortune.

Too many persons go to Cariboo with entirely mistaken notions of the difficulties to be encountered; they will not believe one-half that is told them of the fatigues of the journey or the labor necessary to open out successfully a paying claim; they base their calculations too much upon previous experience in California or elsewhere, which will not apply to the gold fields of Cariboo. No man going there should expect to make much more than expenses the first season, unless he is able to buy into a good paying claim at once. The cost of prospecting for a claim is oftentimes enormous, on account of the high price of provisions and supplies of every kind. You cannot take a mule, pack him with "grub," tools and blankets, and start off on a two or three weeks' prospecting tour, as in California. The extreme roughness of the hill lands, and quagmire condition of the low country, absolutely forbid it. A great deal of the country is so densely timbered that even grass cannot grow in sufficient abundance to maintain animals, at the same time that it presents almost an impenetrable barrier to progress.

But even these obstacles might be in a measure

overcome, and the mines more rapidly developed, but for the extreme shortness of the season. Four months is the longest term of surface mining that can be hoped for, and during that short period a great deal of the time drenching rains are falling and flooding everything around you—mining claim, camping grounds, tents—nothing escapes the constant soaking; so that if you succeed against all these drawbacks, in hunting up, prospecting and fairly opening out a good claim, ready for the second season's successful operations, you may consider yourself fortunate.

That mining will be more generally successful in the Cariboo country after better roads shall have been opened up and living becomes cheaper, there is no doubt, because the gold is there and will never be let alone. My opinion is, that extremely rich hill or deep diggings will soon be found all through the Cariboo country, and many of these will doubtless give winter as well as summer employment to thousands.

I have seen the steady progress of the gold seeker northward, and yet further north, from the lowermost bar on Fraser river to the extreme of Cariboo. I have visited again and again nearly every gulch and ravine where a camp of miners have located, from Fort Yale on the south to the present northern limit of exploration where pack animals could be got through, and without animals, have penetrated more than seventy miles still further north and east, and my opinion is, that Bear river and its hundreds of tributaries will be found another Cariboo, in the extent and richness of its gold deposits; but only to be developed by the same slow progress that has characterized the movements of the mining adventurer northward from the gold producing bars of the lower Fraser, for the past four years. The country and climate together are so forbidding, that the progress of the prospector onward must necessarily be slow.

In regard to the proper time for starting for Cariboo, no advice that I can give will avail anything, because advice will not be heeded. Every man seems

determined to be a little ahead of his fellow adventurer, and so rushes on, regardless of real facts and truthful evidence that ought to be sufficient to teach sensible men better.

Even now, March second, there are hundreds here at Victoria, and along the route between here and Cayoosh Flat, who are now satisfied that they are all of two months too early, the first of May being soon enough to leave Victoria. The past winter has been one of unusual severity throughout the entire Fraser river country. A greater depth of snow than for years before, now covers the ground, and renders transit, except upon snow shoes, next to impossible; and unless we get unusually early, warm rains, the opening of the mining season promises to be all of a month later than usual.

I do not propose to tell the California miner what he needs to make himself comfortable on the way, or after he gets there; he is presumed to know, or thinks he knows, better than any one else can tell him. I will only say, that he had better make his calculations for a decidedly rainy time throughout the whole of the summer and mining season, instead of the almost total absence of rain as in the mining regions of California.

I have often been asked, "Did you ever see a Cariboo?" and, "What kind of an animal is it?" During the three years that I have traversed the Cariboo country, as well as the adjoining country for sixty or seventy miles to the west, north and east, I have never seen a Cariboo, though I have often seen the "Elephant" of that country. The best evidence to be obtained in the country, from those who have often seen the animal, and apart from the opinion of naturalists who have made mention of it, is that it is a kind of mongrel Reindeer; the form of its antlers, which are often found, are certain evidence that it is neither the Elk or Stag.

There is no reliance to be placed upon game in Cariboo as a means of subsistence. Grouse are, in a few places, abundant, and fish are quite plentiful in the

lakes that are not alkaline ; wild fowls are to some extent procurable along the swamps, marshy and lake lands, but as a whole, the game of the country is hardly worth the time required to capture it. There are no venomous reptiles in Cariboo.

Commending the foregoing to the careful consideration of the adventurer, as my honest opinion of the country and its approachable routes, their advantages and disadvantages, I leave him to form his own opinion of his chances for a fortune, or a return with nothing more than having obtained a tolerably fair view of the "Elephant" of Cariboo.

THE NEZ PERCES

AND

SALMON RIVER GOLD FIELDS.

The publisher of this hand-book takes pleasure in laying before its readers a portion of a letter, which explains itself, as the only introduction necessary to this part of the work.

WALLULA CITY, Jan. 18th, 1862.

A. ROSENFIELD—*Dear Sir:* Yours of December 4th came to hand a few days since. You desire my opinion of the success likely to attend a well conducted branch of your San Francisco establishment in some part of the Nez Perces mining country, and connecting the same with a Letter and perhaps general Express business. Also, my candid judgment in reference to the Nez Perces gold mines, their probable extent, richness, accessibility, &c., &c.

* * * * * *

I believe at Lewiston, a new city of that name, at the forks of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, and the head of navigation, would be an excellent point to establish your business; I mean a general News, Book and Stationery Store, to which I think you might add with profit, the buying of gold dust for shipment. I think Lewiston would be preferable to this place.

There are already as many Express companies here, and Express agents, as are needed to do the present

business of the country. Between Portland and Lewiston, Messrs. Tracy & Co. are running a regular Express, with facilities fully equal to the present as well as prospective wants of the country for some time to come.

From Lewiston to Oro Fino, Elk City and the Salmon river mines, Mossman & Miller and Cady & Co. send their Express agents regularly, for the conveyance of letters and treasure. It would require experience and time and some acquaintance with the country, to compete successfully with these already well known and reliable companies.

Two years in the mining districts of this region, will enable me to give you a reliable, if not an interesting account of them, which I will now endeavor to do.

* * * * * *

Truly yours, T. R. OLNEY.

ROUTES AND DISTANCES

TO THE

SALMON RIVER GOLD MINES.

The best route by which to reach the Nez Perces and Salmon river gold fields, depends entirely upon the point of departure, or where a man is, when ready to start. Thus, your humble servant, instead of starting from San Francisco and taking the usual route from thence, *via* Portland and up the Columbia river, has never yet seen the city of Portland, or, indeed, the Columbia river, except so far as the Snake makes one of the main branches of that river. My starting point for the mines was Salt Lake City, thence by the way of Raft river to Snake river, and down the Snake to the Nez Perces country; and not only was it a very direct route, but an inexpensive one, in all except time, as compared with the route from San Francisco. I propose to give you a short description of the trip, and then take up the points you desire me more particularly to enlarge upon.

As one of a company of eight men, I left Salt Lake City on the third of June, 1860, for a prospecting tour to the Salmon river country, having heard marvelous stories of gold deposits on the upper tributaries of that river. We took with us twelve mules, well packed with provisions, mining implements and camp equipage, and started for Snake river, the great southern tributary of the Columbia.

ROUTE FROM SALT LAKE CITY.

From Salt Lake City, along the old California emigrant road to its junction with Subtlett's cut-off, near City rocks, to a branch of

MILES.

RAFT RIVER..... 160

This distance we made in eight and a half days. Thence down Raft river and valley

TO SNAKE RIVER..... 32

Down Snake river along the west bank

TO CROSSING..... 66

From thence along the eastern bank and valley

TO FORT BOISE..... 45

Here we made head-quarters for more than a month, prospecting on Reid's, Payette's, Owyhee and Malheur rivers, on all of which we found gold, and in several places could have made big wages, but for the mean, thieving and decidedly hostile bands of Snake Indians, which we found altogether too numerous for the safety of ourselves on all the principal tributaries of the main Snake river.

Crossing the river to the west bank near Fort Boise, and keeping near the river along the Oregon emigrant road to where it

LEAVES THE RIVER..... 40

Here the road makes off in a north-westerly course, more directly towards Walla Walla. We kept down the valley of the Snake to the mouth of

SALMON RIVER..... 110

Here we intended to prospect for the remainder of the season, but were most emphatically forbidden and really deterred from either ascending the river or prospecting its bars; and such were the constant annoyances from the Indians, we were glad to get out of their country, with no other loss than nearly half

our mules. From the mouth of the Salmon to Lewiston, at the mouth of

CLEAR WATER RIVER..... 55

Whole distance from Salt Lake City to Lewiston, five hundred and eight miles.

ROUTE FROM SAN FRANCISCO, via PORTLAND AND COLUMBIA RIVER.

The distances on this route from Portland to Walla Walla city, I take from published tables of distances, and not from any knowledge I have of the route.

From San Francisco, by ocean steamer, to Portland; thence by river steamer

TO THE DALLES..... 100

Over the Dalles portage

BY STAGE..... 15

Now by steamer again

TO OLD FORT WALLA WALLA..... 120

During seasons of high water, steamers make regular trips from Walla Walla around up

TO LEWISTON..... 150

From Old Fort Walla Walla there is a good road and regular stage route to New Fort Walla Walla; this place is here more commonly called

WALLA WALLA CITY..... 30

From Walla Walla City a good stage road and stages

TO LEWISTON..... 84

All along between Walla Walla City and Lewiston are numerous houses of entertainment, making it easy of transit for men or pack animals. Lewiston is at the head of steam navigation on Snake river, and its nearness to the different mining localities on Clearwater, Salmon and Powder rivers, will continue it what it now is, a place of growing importance; for already it is quite a thriving city, the headquarters of traders, miners and packers.

Before I start out for the mines, let me speak a moment of the country we are in, and its native inhabitants. Lewiston and vicinity is part of a Nez Perces Indian reservation. Indians and half-breeds are numerous, but friendly, or would be if properly treated by their white visitors. Some of the Nez Perces tribe having mixed with the Snake Indians, are the occupants of a kind of middle ground on the north bank of the Salmon river; these are not as kindly disposed towards the whites as are the more northerly Nez Perces; nor are they as hostile as the Snakes, who occupy the whole upper Snake river country, on both sides of the river and on all its tributaries, down to and including both banks of the Salmon river.

These Indians are quite numerous, own considerable bands of cattle and horses, and cultivate the soil to some extent in a few localities. There is every evidence that they know of the existence of rich gold deposits on the upper Salmon; for though their own people are forbidden to expose its locality, or even to procure it in any considerable quantity, for fear of exciting the cupidity of the whites, yet not unfrequently an indiscreet one or more among them will offer gold in surprising quantity, always insisting that it is to be had with but little more trouble than the picking up and separating from about the same quantity of sand or gravel.

As a people, the Snakes are always in bad humor with the whites. They say— and with a good deal of truth— "When the white man comes into Indian country to dig gold, Indians all die off." No serious disturbance has as yet occurred, as a consequence of the encroachment of the Salmon river miners thus far upon the lands of the Snakes; but I should not be surprised were an outbreak to occur at any moment. I do not speak thus to deter any one from coming here, but only as my opinion of what I believe will result from causes that are operating surely, and which cannot be prevented or long delayed; because, as certainly as there is gold there, the miner is bound to have it,

and will—it being only a matter of time; and therefore the more there are come, and the sooner, the easier and quicker the conquest; for, call it what you will—fate, or destiny—they must give way before the superior race.

THE ROUTES TO ORO FINO.

There are two roads leading from Lewiston to the Oro Fino diggings; both are good wagon roads for the greater part of the way at the proper season, and good pack roads at all seasons when there is not too great a depth of snow. The route along the north bank of Clearwater is a few miles the shortest, but on no other account is to be preferred to the south route. From Lewiston, by the north route, which lies along the north bank of Clearwater river, the distance to Oro Fino City is but seventy-nine miles. The road is good for wagons with the exception of the last twenty miles, which is mountainous. There is plenty of timber and water along the route, and grass for animals at the proper season. There are a few way stations and good places to camp all the way. I will note the most important points.

From Lewiston cross to the north bank, then eastwardly, over a good road,

TO BASKET CREEK..... 12

Thence along the river again, fine road

TO CAMP CREEK..... 9

Now a fine road again

TO NORTH FORK OF CLEARWATER... 12

Ford the Fork, and thence along the river and foothills

TO FORD'S STATION..... 12

From Ford's there are two trails to Oro Fino City. By the south route, cross Oro Fino creek and follow up the Clearwater

TO BELL'S FERRY..... 6

Now a good road till nearly reaching

ORO FINO CITY..... 28

There is not three miles difference between the north and south routes from Ford's to Oro Fino City; but by the north route you cross Quartz and Canal creeks and reach Pierce City three miles before you get to Oro Fino. Whole distance from Lewiston to Oro Fino by river route, seventy-nine miles.

As there is much the largest amount of wagon travel on the south route from Lewiston to Oro Fino, I will give distances. From Lewiston you take a south-easterly direction

TO CRAIG'S STATION..... 15

From Craig's, a good road again eastwardly

TO BURNS' STATION..... 16

From the vicinity of Burns', several routes diverge to different points on Clearwater, as well as Salmon river. Taking the Oro Fino route, the distance is,

TO BELL'S FERRY..... 25

There is a shorter trail between Craig's and Bell's ferry, crossing Cañon creek to the north of Burns', but it is only available to packers and footmen carrying their own provisions. I have already given the distance from Bell's to Oro Fino. Whole distance from Lewiston to Oro Fino by the south route, eighty-four miles.

From Burns' station there is a good road direct

TO LAWYER'S CROSSING..... 30

This is on the Clearwater, some seventeen miles above Bell's ferry, and on the most direct route to, and distant from

ELK CITY..... 70

Elk City is at the forks of the American and Red rivers, and these, with Buffalo, Rodney's and Blair's creeks, help to form the South Fork of the Clearwater.

During the last summer rich diggings were struck on Oro Grand, a tributary of the North Fork of the Clearwater, and distant only fifteen miles north-east of Oro Fino City. Good diggings, or such as would be called good in any part of California, were also found on Rabbit and Cedar creeks; these two, with numerous other smaller creeks and gulches are the sources of the North Fork, but abandoned because they would not yield but an ounce to an ounce and a half a day to the man.

From Cedar creek, it is twelve miles across the White Cedar mountains to Lou Lou creek, a branch of St. Mary's river, the latter tributary to Bitter Root river. Lou Lou creek must not be mistaken for Lolo creek, which flows into the South Fork of Clearwater above Bell's ferry. A prospecting party, in the early part of August last, passed over to and down Lou Lou creek, and found diggings that will pay from ten to thirty dollars a day, and which, as soon as supplies can be taken there, will be worked. Eight miles below the mouth of the Lou Lou, at the forks of St. Mary's and Hell Gate rivers, is a small village of Blackfoot Indians. They are friendly, at least to traders, and either to induce the latter to visit their country for the purpose of traffic or because it is really so, they relate great stories of the gold that lies in the beds of the upper sources of the Hell Gate river; and as these streams all take their rise in a spur of the Rocky mountains, that in its continuation westwardly forms the Salmon river group and chain, all of which are known to be highly auriferous, leaves no reason to doubt the existence of rich deposits on very many of the sources of the Hell Gate river. This river derives its name from an extremely dangerous whirl, or rapid, eight miles above its confluence with the Bitter Root, and six miles below the mouth of the Blackfoot fork.

All these rivers have their sources in what is judged

to be a gold producing country, and many portions of it will undoubtedly be found to contain it in abundance when the facilities for properly prospecting it can be relied upon.

At present but little is known of the climate, no one to my knowledge, except the natives, having yet wintered there. There are several points of interest to the gold seeker in the Nez Perces country, that I have never visited. I could instance almost the entire of the North Fork of the Clearwater. There are numerous small creeks and streams tributary to this fork, that show admirable prospects, if it were not that the Salmon river diggings so greatly excel them. But if the Nez Perces mines are not quite so rich as the Salmon river country, there is this in their favor: they are nearer, easier of access, have not so great an altitude, and the season consequently longer and milder than the more elevated Salmon river mines, whilst all fear of any disturbance from Indians can be laid entirely aside, which is no small item oftentimes in the list of a miner's anxieties and perplexities.

With the preceding fair and honest expression of my views of the Nez Perces country, as a gold producing region, I will now point the way from a personal knowledge of three different routes, to the already explored portion of the Salmon river country, and to do this we will go once more back to the grand rendezvous, the city of Lewiston.

LEWISTON TO SALMON RIVER.

There are three routes from Lewiston, or near Lewiston, to the Salmon river gold fields. I have been on all of them, and will give distances as near correct as can be estimated by the time required to travel over them; and here let me say, don't try to take a wagon over the whole distance, for it cannot be done. Merchandise can be carried in wagons as far as Craig's or Burns' station, and across the

prairie when it is dry and hard, as far as the heavy timber; but it must be packed the balance of the way.

From Lewiston, to take either of the three trails, go on the south Oro Fino road

TO CRAIG'S..... 15

From here the old, Indian trail to Salmon river crosses Cam-as prairie, the soil of which resembles the adobe lands of California, and is so flat that during the rainy season water covers most of the surface, but only a few inches deep; the soil then perfectly saturated is so soft and sticky that no wagon, or even pack animal, can cross it; so that after the fall rains set in, it is useless to attempt it, until in winter, when it is frozen solid. During the summer it becomes so dry that the movement of animals over it raises a perfect cloud of fine black dust, which is anything but agreeable. This prairie is thickly covered with Cam-as, a bulbous plant, the top of which resembles the leek or wild onion; the bulb however is not like the leek in its properties, but more closely resembles a dry, hard potato. It makes an important article of food for the Indians, who gather it in considerable qantities, which, after drying, is pounded into flour. Distance from Craig's, across the prairie,

TO PRAIRIE SPRINGS..... 14

Now through an open, sparsely timbered country, occasionally rough, with three or four good camping places, and reach

SALMON RIVER..... 63

From here to the present mines you must follow up the narrow flats and through cañous, where, if the river happens to be high, it is next to impossible to pass

TO MOUTH OF SLATE CREEK..... 25

Whole distance from Lewiston, one hundred

and seventeen miles. Here you strike the present mining district of Salmon river.

We will now take the new, or middle trail, from Lewiston

TO CRAIG'S..... 15

TO BURNS'..... 16

From Burns', the route leads across the north-east border of Parharlawhan prairie

TO GOOD CAMPING..... 12

Now on again to another good camping ground,

GRASS, WOOD AND WATER..... 20

From thence a good trail

TO HEAVY TIMBER..... 10

From this point the trail is a hard one to travel; country thickly timbered, hilly, and even very mountainous most of the way

TO SUMMIT, OR SALMON DIGGINGS... 25

Whole distance from Lewiston, ninety-eight miles, and this route takes you directly to Summit diggings, whereas the first described route with its distances leaves you at the mouth of Slate creek, some twenty miles from Florence, Nevada, Millersburg, and other of the principal mining camps.

The old route from Lewiston to Salmon river diggings is the longest, as it takes for a considerable distance the Oro Fino and Elk City trails. It is now seldom taken by miners who desire to go direct to the Salmon river mines, but packers often go the route with supplies for Elk City, and then take the trail for Salmon.

Whole distance from Lewiston

TO ELK CITY..... 80

From Elk City to Summit diggings on Slate creek, there are two routes: one known as the mountain trail, a very difficult and laborious one to travel, is by

MOUNTAIN TRAIL..... 65

Making the whole distance from Lewiston, one hundred and forty-five miles. By the other trail from Elk City, which avoids the worst part of the mountain, and the one always taken by the packers, the distance to Summit diggings is called eighty-five miles. I think it ten miles less, which would make the whole distance from Lewiston, *via* Elk City, to the Salmon river mines, one hundred and fifty-five miles.

The principal mining district of Salmon river, at present worked, is on Slate creek and its tributaries. The richest portion of the district is known as the Summit diggings, because situated upon an elevated plateau, constituting almost the summit elevation of the country around. As a plateau, it is comparatively level, and yet intersected and cut up in every direction by small ravines and gulches, some with, but very many without water sufficient for sluicing; whilst a great deal of very rich ground is entirely without water upon the surface. The whole district is a decomposed quartz, resting upon a kind of grey granite bed-rock, at varying depths from the surface, and as all the gold is above this rock, the prospecting is simple and certain, requiring no sinking of shafts or holes deeper than the surface of the rock.

A great difficulty found in working many of the claims, is the presence of water upon the bed-rock, with no chance to drain, on account of the general level of the whole plateau.

The different mining camps that have taken names in print, and figure as cities, upon paper, are just so many localities on small gulches and ravines, where a few miners' tents or cabins are erected, with perhaps one or more of them designated as a store or trading house. Their names are as follows: Nevada City, Florence City, Millerstown, Meadow Creek, Baboon Gulch, Pioneer Gulch, Mason's Gulch, Neal's Gulch, Ureka, and others, constantly being added as further

prospecting opens up new paying grounds. All these places are in the immediate vicinity of each other, the farthest but three or four miles apart, and all on the head gulches and tributaries of Slate creek.

On Salmon river, eighteen miles above the mouth of Slate creek, near the fork of the Salmon, new and very rich ground has been struck upon Colby's gulch, and good prospects are obtained from all the bars along the Salmon in this vicinity, which unerringly demonstrates the existence of coarser gold in increased quantities higher up the country. The head waters of the North Fork of Salmon river, and those of Bitter Root or St. Mary's river, all take their rise in the same group or chain of mountains as do those of the South Fork of the Clearwater, upon which Elk City and other mining camps are located; and the presumption is, that the whole country is to a greater or less extent auriferous. That every gulch and ravine will be found rich, no one believes; but that a vast extent of undeveloped country, much of it possessing great mineral wealth as compared with many other gold producing countries, is almost equally certain. I am acquainted with parties who, though possessing twenty dollars a day claims in the Nez Perces mines, will spend the next summer in prospecting the upper Salmon and tributaries, even at the risk of losing their Nez Perces claims. Those who know of the real richness of the Summit mines, and there are very many who do, who have not participated in them, are not going to be content with anything less than one hundred dollars a day diggings, till they have spent at least one season looking for better paying claims.

WHAT I THINK OF THE CHANCES.

Already I hear of large numbers on their way to the Clearwater and Salmon river mines; all of these, of course every man, expects to strike a fortune, or, at least, great pay, or he would not attempt so long and laborious a trip, as he is sure to find it. Now it cannot be otherwise than this, of the thousands who reach the

mines, a large number, perhaps one-half, by practicing industry and prudence can make good wages, a few of these will strike big pay, and be more than satisfied with their success, whilst a still lesser number will, by mere luck, blunder upon fortunes. This leaves one-half, or perhaps more, to grapple with the evils of misfortune and disappointment. Men ought not to come here expecting to prospect new claims, open them out, make a fortune and return home in a single season, though many will do it. The mining season is at best short, not more than five months in the most favorable districts, and in many not more than four. The cost of transportation to the mines is enormous, or if you pay your board it will cost you from two to four dollars a day.

The present winter is being unusually severe, in all this as well as the upper country, and large numbers of animals are dying, and unless a considerable addition is made to the packing force of last year, provisions cannot be taken into the mines early enough, nor fast enough, to meet the wants of the probable immigration; so that all that can, should provide themselves with pack animals before reaching Lewiston, or expect to pay about three prices for what they will want, when they reach the mines.

With plenty of money in pocket, there is no difficulty in reaching Lewiston, with very fair hotel and steamboat accommodations all the way; but from Lewiston every man should expect to keep his own hotel; so that pack animals, with tent and camp equipage, make a party perfectly comfortable that without them might be certain to meet with inconvenience if not discomforts.

COST OF TRIP.

The cost must depend entirely upon the habits or inclination of the man; for whilst one would require three hundred dollars, another would get along just as well, or well enough, for two hundred; even one hundred and fifty dollars will take a man through tolera-

bly well, if he meets with no mishap or delay on the way. So that three hundred dollars may be put down as the very least that any one should think of starting with, as this would barely enable him to get back again, should he be unsuccessful, and even then he would have to squeeze, both ways. If you have four hundred dollars, you are all right, whilst five hundred makes a man feel strong and good, as though he was proof against any ordinary ill luck that might befall him, and gives him means to move about and prospect for a claim, in case he strikes upon nothing soon after reaching the mining country. And yet, after all, if there is any one thing a man can safely do, after he has procured his entire outfit for the trip, and do it with entire satisfaction to himself, and can do it, is, to put another extra one or two hundred dollars in his pocket; it cannot come amiss, unless he happens to get robbed of it.

WHERE TO PROCURE OUTFIT.

Although the miner can procure anything that he may require of food, clothing or mining tools, either at Portland or Lewiston, or even in the mines, yet every mile that he moves from Portland towards Lewiston or the mines, adds to the cost of everything, and in a wonderfully increased ratio; I say this from knowledge gained by experience; my occupation, that of trader and packer, enables me to judge correctly; so that the sooner the miner can procure his supplies and have them put into snug packages and pay a fair freight upon them to Lewiston or through to the mines, the more money he will save.

TIME FOR STARTING.

My remarks on this head are not intended for crazy men, or those who, reckless of advice, rush on, thinking to gain much by being first in the field; but to those who are willing to be advised, hoping to be profited by it.

The last two winters were far more mild, with less snow, than the present, and then the mining season did not open in the Nez Perces mines till the middle of June, and as the present is the most severe season ever experienced here, and the Salmon river mines even more elevated than the Oro Fino mines, there is not a hope that profitable mining will commence there before the first or middle of June; but even though mining could be done to some extent before that, it will be impossible sooner to get supplies through.

It is evident, therefore, that to start from San Francisco before the middle of May, is only time and money thrown away.

And now, having given my real opinion of the Nez Perces and Salmon river gold fields, with my best judgment of distances from actual travel, I shall leave it with you to publish or not as you may think best, hoping that if published, you will be careful to avoid typographical errors, particularly in figures relating to distances.

T. R. OLNEY.

To A. ROSENFIELD.

VOCABULARY

OF THE

CHINOOK JARGON.

Chinook—English.

Nika I
Mika You
Klasker They
Mesiker You (plural)
Tenass man A boy
Chaco Come
Momook Work
Klaawa Go
Kar Where
Yawa Here
Alta At present
Alke Afterwards
Illihe Land
Ahyak Quick
Siya Distance
Klasker Who
Klosh Good
Laport Door
Konaway All
Sun Day
Poolakly Night
Tenas sun Morning
Sitkum sun Noon
Kakwa The same
Yoolkhut Long
Hy-you Plenty
Sockally High
Pilton Fool
Tekope White
Pill Red
Klayl Black
Letete Head
Laposh Mouth
Leeda Teeth
Lelang Tongue
Seca-hoose Face
Lema The hand
Yaksoot Hair
Lareh Barley
Lepoah Peas
Wapito Potatoes
Ledowo Turnips
Lekarrot Carrots
Lesonion Onions
Kabbage Cabbage
Klapite Thread
Moola Saw mill
Percece Blanket
Kamoosack Beads
Poolally Powder
Kula-kulla Birds
Musket A gun
Ninamox Otter
Ena Beaver
Quanice Whale

Yuiceco Porpoise
Oluck Snake
Soolee Mouse
Skad Mole
Lelo Wolf
Pish-pish Cat
Kuitan A horse
Moos-moos A cow
Lamuto Sheep
Namox A dog
Kushaw A hog
Kimta Behind
Shetsham Swim
Seeapoose Cap
Leshawl A shawl
P And
Wichat Also
Dly tupso Hay
Dly Dry
Tum-tum Heart
Comb Comb
Koory Run
Pilpil Blood
Lesap Egg
People Hen
Lecook Rooster
Lapell Spade
Lapiosge Hoe
Leglow Nail
Lake Lake
Lachaise Chair
Kettle A pot
Oskan A cup
Lope Rope
Silux Angry
Sharty Sing
Mercie Thanks
Kinoose Tobacco
Chee New
Sunday Sunday
Pooh Shoot
Lolo To carry
Klawa Slow
Wagh To spill
Inti Across

Leprate Priest
Lejob Devil
Kapo A relation
Lepied Foot
Tee-owitt Leg
Yachoot Belly
Spose If
Delate Straight
Seepy Crooked
Tolo Win
Kow Tie
Klack Untie
Yaka He
Nesika We
Man Man
Klootchman Woman
Chuck Water
Lum Rum
Patle Full
Datlamb Drunk
Boston American
Pesioux French
Malo None
Husatchy Bad
Tyhee Chief
Elitee Slave
Ou Brother
Ats Sister
Kapswalla Steal
Ipsoot Secret
Patlatch Give
Iscum Take
Wake No
Nowitka Yes
Seokum Strong
Six Friend
Ikta What
Pechuck Green
Lemoro Wild
Daselle Saddle
Sitlii Stirrup
Lesibro Spurs
Kolan Ear
Klapp To find
Kull Tough, hard

Lapulla The back
Sapled Wheat
Pire sapled Bread
Labiscuit Biscuit
Laween Oats
Lice Rice
Sagwa Sugar
Soap Soap
Molass Molasses
Stick shoes Shoes
Skin shoes Moccasins
Gleece Pire Candle
Skullapeen A rifle
Memoloose Kill
Aetshoot Bear
Mowitch Deer
Cuitchaddy Rabbit
Skubbyyou Skunk
Olikhiyou Seal
Yakolla Eagle
Waugh-waugh Owl
Skakairk Hawk
Mauk Duck
Smockmock Grouse
Malaekua Musquito
Swaawa Panther
Skudzo A squirrel
Enpooy Lice
Lesway Silk
Lalopa Ribbons
Kapo Coat
Sickilox Pantaloons
Shirt Shirt
Aekik A fish hook
Tootosh Milk
Snass Rain
Pithick Thick
Snow Snow
Lehash An axe
Laleem File
Opsu A knife
Leklee Keys
Pillom A Broom
Lakutchee Clams
Lacassett A trunk
Tumolitch A barrel
Opkan A basket
Lepla A plate
Latuble A table
Laqueen A saw
Moosum Sleep
Cold Illihe Winter
Warm Illihe Summer
Cold A year
Ke waap A hole
Zum Write
Klemenwhit False
Klonass Don't know
Quass Fear, afraid
Olally Berries
Tzae Sweet
Tumalla To-morrow
Hee-hee Laugh
Moon Moon
Klakeece Stars
How Listen, attend
Sil-sil Buttons
Lapeep Pipe
Akaepooit Needle
Tin-tin Music
Tance Dance
Opootch Tail
Etlinwill Ribs
Ikt stick A yard
Elp First
Claystone Coal
Lesack A bag
Newha How is it
Tenass Klootchman A girl
Tenass A child, and anything small
Wawa Language, to speak
Mamook Chaco Bring
Muck-muck Anything good to eat
Pire-chuck. Ardent spirits of any kind
King George. English, Scotch or Irish
Laplosh A shingle or plank

Wake nika huntux I do not understand
Oihes Sandwich Islander
Hyass Large or very
Till Heavy or tired
Lazy Slow or lazy
Mamookipsoot To conceal
Halluck Laport Open the door
Ikpooy Laport. Shut the door
Klakany Out of doors
Midlight Sit down, put down, or stay
Midwhit Stand up, get up, or move
Sitkum Middle or half
Tenas Poolakly Sunset or dusk
Cookshut Fight, break, injure, etc.
Wakeskokum Weak
Wakekonsick Never
Kumtux Understand
Tikke Want, desire, etc.
Ikta mika tikke What do you want
Okoah This or that
Wake ikta nika tikke I do not want anything
Sow wash Indian, Savage
Ankuty Long ago
Lay-lay A long time
Konsick How much
Mokook Buy or sell
Kultis Nothing gratis
Kapitt Finish, Stop
Kapitt wawa Hold your tongue
Nanitch Look, to see
Sockally Tyhee The Almighty
Keekwully Deep, beneath
Quonisum Always
Sick Unwell, ill, sick, etc.
Lecreme Cream color
Leky Spotted, or piebald
Olo Hungry or thirsty
Lapushmo Saddle Blanket
Chick chick A wagon or cart
Kull-kull stick Oak
Laplash stick Cedar
Legum stick Pine
Klemansa pel Flour
Sale Cotton or calico
Kanim Conoe or boat
Klackan A fence, field
Kalidon Lead or shot
Chickaman Metals of all kinds
Chickaman shoes Horse shoes
Tanass Musket A pistol
Moolack or Moos Elk
Salmon or sallo-week Salmon
Tanass Salmon Trout
Lemule or Hyas kolon Mule
Man Moos-moos An ox
Tanass Moos-moos A calf
Henkerchim Handkerchief
Coat A woman's gown
Keekwully coat A petticoat
Keekwully Sickilox Drawers
Hachr ou House A house
Kata Why, or what is the matter
Whaah (Exclamation of astonishment) Indeed
Abba Well then, or, if that is the case
Luckwulla A nut
Tupsu Grass or straw
Hoey-hoey Exchange
Tootosh gleece Butter
Kquttilt To collapse
Glass A loking glass or

window
Koory kuitan A race horse
Tanass Lakutchee Mussels
Koppa From toward, &c.
Chitch Grandmother
Kia-howya How are you, or poor, pitiful
Lapooelle Frying pan
Appola A roast of anything
Quis-quis A straw mat
Makook house A store
Katsuck Midday, between
Oloman An old man, or worn out
Lemaci An old woman
Hyass Sunday Christmas day and the 4th of July
Pisheck Bad, exhausted
Paper Paper, books, &c.
Zum seeahhoose Paint de face.
Pire Olally Ripe berries
Cold olally Cranberries
Fiil olally Strawberries
Lapiaege A trap or snare
Miami Down the stream, below
Machlay Towards the land
Staetijay Island
Aalloyma Another or different
Hee-lee-lema Gamble
Killapie Return or capsize
Kloch-klock Oysters
Lawoolitch A bottle
Annah Exclamation of astonishment
Sick tum tum Regret, sorrow
Kooy-kooy Finger rings
Hrowlkult Stubborn, determined
Tickaerchy Although
Tamanawas Witchcraft
Owaykeet A road
Ikt 1
Mox 2
Klone 3
Locket 4
Quinum 5
Tahum 6
Sinimox 7
Sotkin 8
Quies 9
Tatilum 10
Tatilum pi ikt 11
Tatilum pi mox 12
Tatilum tatilum ou ikt Takamonak 100
Ikt hyass Takamonak 1,000
Stowebelow North
Stegwaak South
Sun chako East
Sun midlight West

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R. L. Read, Esq., K.C.,
C/o Messrs. Read, Wallbridge, Gibson & Sutton,
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Vancouver, B.C.

My dear Mr. Read:

I enclose herewith a little booklet dealing with the Salmon River and Cariboo Mining District that was published in 1862, which I thought possibly you might be interested in. My grandfather, I understand, went to British Columbia about that time looking for a fortune for his grandson, the writer of this letter, but unfortunately did not succeed in finding one. I assume that he obtained this little booklet when he was making the trip.

I trust that you are quite well, and believe me with kindest regards,

Yours very faithfully,

H. P. Hill

HPH:LM

THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
VICTORIA, B.C.

September 4, 1941.

R. L. Reid, K.C., L.L.D.,
1736 Wesbrook Crescent,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Dr. Reid:-

Many thanks for your letter of August 25th, regarding Guide and History of Salmon River and Cariboo Mining Districts. I have been unable to find any reference to it whatever, having checked all our bibliographies, so, consequently, the item interests me a great deal and I should certainly like to see it when next time in Vancouver, which, by the way, should be some time about the middle of this month. To save you the trouble, I am writing to Mr. Smith of the University of Washington Library to see if any of the cooperating libraries have reported this item in connection with his bibliography of Northwest Americana now being collected at the Bibliographical Center of the University Library. Should I hear anything from him I shall certainly pass the word on to you.

Thanking you once again for your courtesy in this connection, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Willard E. Ireland

Provincial Archivist.

WEI:MG

By the way, the Grand Lodge reports have come. Many thanks for your assistance in that connection

WEI.

THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
VICTORIA, B.C.

September 10, 1941.

Dr. R. L. Reid, K.C.,
1736 Wesbrook Crescent,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Dr. Reid:-

Just a very short note to let you know that I have had word from the University of Washington Library and they report that the Salmon River item is not included in the Union Catalogue of Pacific Northwest Americana, nor in the Union Catalogue of the Bibliographic Centre. The only similar item they do report is the Map of the Nez Perces and Salmon River Gold Mines in Washington Territory, compiled from the most recent surveys by Daniel W. Lowell & Co., San Francisco, printed by Whitton, Waters & Co., corner of Clay and Sansome Streets, 1862, which item consists of 23 pages of texts with a map appended.

Sorry that I have not been any more successful in this in helping you trace your interesting new find.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Willard E Ireland

Provincial Archivist.

WEI:MG

THREE YEARS

IN

C A R I B O O :

By JO. LINDLEY,

BEING THE EXPERIENCE AND OBSERVATIONS OF A PACKER,

What I saw and know of the Country; Its Traveled Routes, Distances, Villages, Mines, Trade and Prospects.

W I T H

Distances, Notes and Facts, Relative to the

SALMON RIVER AND NEZ PERCES GOLD FIELDS.

By T. R. OLNEY.

SAN FRANCISCO:

PUBLISHED BY A. ROSENFIELD.

TOWNE & BACON, PRINTERS.

1862.

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THREE YEARS

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BY JO. LINDLEY,

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From Victoria to New Westminster, the Capital of British Columbia, on the north bank of Fraser River by steamer	100
From New Westminster, by steamer, to the mouth of HARRISON RIVER	45
From New Westminster, by steamer, to the mouth of HARRISON RIVER	45
Continue by steamer up Harrison River to HARRISON LAKE	5
Continue by steamer to north end of Harrison Lake, TO PORT DOUGLASS	45
Now over a fine road on foot or in wagon--called a stage--with eating houses and whisky shops at convenient distances, TO LITTLE LILLOET LAKE	29
Here take steamer, sail or row-boat, TO END OF LAKE	7
Now an easy portage on foot or wagon TO PEMBERTON LAKE, nearly	2
Cross the Lake by steamer TO PEMBERTON CITY	17
Almost anything in the line of provisions or clothing can be obtained here, with good hotel accommodations.	
Now a good road TO HALF WAY HOUSE	14
A good road again TO ANDERSON LAKE, AND VILLAGE	15
Good accommodations here.	
Now by steamer again TO END OF LAKE	16
Now an easy portage on foot TO SEATON LAKE, less than	2
Now by steamer TO EAST END OF LAKE	16
Again on foot or wagon TO LILLOET VILLAGE, nearly	4

Here cross the Fraser river by ferry to Cayoosh Flat, or Parsonsville, and we are now distant, by the route taken, from New Westminster, two hundred and seventeen miles; from Victoria, three hundred and seventeen miles. This is the grand

rendezvous of the Cariboo and Upper Fraser river packers; and as we are now done with steamers, stages and wagons, let the last one hundred and fifty miles admonish the Cariboo adventurer of the necessities requisite to enable him to perform a journey of one hundred and ninety miles entirely on foot, or at best on mule back but a small part of the way; for though the trip thus far may have proved an easy one, you may now expect to encounter hardship and exposure, though you may escape real danger.

A sufficiency of good, warm clothing and blankets is indispensable; and yet to carry a single blanket or a pound weight of extra boots or clothing of any description, lugs down the physical man, and should be avoided by transferring all extra weight to the regular packer. This enables you to get through from six to eight days sooner than when you pack your own animals, or, hiring it done, accompany the packers; for no pack train over this route can move as far by eight or ten miles a day, as men can unencumbered by animals and all unneccessary weight.

The whole distance from Cayoosh Flat to the Forks of the Quesnell, can be accomplished without carrying more than one day's food at any time, if you have the means to procure it at the several stations named, along the route; but the distances must be made daily, or camping out on short allowance is inevitable.

Packers, carrying tents and provisions, do not make the reaching of the stations a necessity, but camp where food and water can be procured for their animals.

From Lilloet there is a trail leading up the west bank of the Fraser river to Express Bar eighteen miles, thence to Big Bar fifteen miles, and crossing the Fraser unites with the main trail on the east bank. From Cayoosh Flat, opposite Lilloet, to William's Lake on the Cariboo route, there are two trails: One known as the River Trail, that for the greater part of the way lies along or near the east bank of Fraser river; the other the Brigade Trail, that leads off from Fraser river in a north-easterly direction till it strikes a tributary of Thompson's river, then north to Lahache Lake, then west to William's Lake, where it unites with the River Trail. The Brigade Trail is the longest route by more than thirty miles, but much the best for pack animals, the River Trail being really dangerous for the transit of even the surest footed mule.

DISTANCES BY THE BRIGADE TRAIL.

	From Cayoosh Flat, through a timbered country	
TO	THE FOUNTAIN	8
	Now over a fine, rolling, timbered country,	
TO	THE PAVILION	12
	Now a fine trail	
TO	GOOD CAMPING	14
	Thence over a muddy trail	
TO	JULIE PRAIRIE	12
	Another muddy trail in part	
TO	LITTLE CREEK	12
	Now a fair trail	
TO	GREEN LAKE	12
	Then a low, muddy trail	
TO	BRIDGE	22

3. ROUTE TO CARIBOO.

A fair trail most of the way
TO LAHACHE LAKE..... 20
Now an excellent trail along the lake
TO LAKE SHORE CAMP..... 18
Thence over a very good trail
TO WILLIAM'S LAKE..... 32
Whole distance, one hundred and sixty-two miles.

DISTANCES BY THE RIVER TRAIL.

From Cayoosh Flat
TO THE FOUNTAIN..... 8
TO THE PAVILION..... 12
Now a low, soft trail crossing Big Slide creek and on
TO LEON'S STATION..... 15
Heavy timbered country
TO BIG BAR CREEK..... 19
Soft, bad trail
TO CANOE CREEK CROSSING..... 20
Now a very fair trail
TO DOG CREEK..... 10
Now near the river and then along Alkali lake up
TO THE CROSSING..... 17
Now over a high trail, and more rolling country, crossing Chimney creek,
TO WILLIAM'S LAKE..... 27
Whole distance, one hundred and twenty-eight miles.
From William's Lake
TO DAVISON'S RANCH..... 3
Here the Brigade trail leads off to the northwest, towards Fort Alexandria; the Cariboo trail in a north-easterly direction through a timbered country
TO DEEP CREEK..... 10
A more mountainous country
TO ROUND TENT..... 12
A few deep, muddy sloughs, otherwise a fair trail
TO BEAVER LAKE..... 16
Here is one of the best houses on the whole route. It is now kept by James Sellers. The country is level and well adapted to cultivation, producing the fine vegetables in abundance.
Now a bad, wet low trail
TO LITTLE LAKE..... 16
With very little improvement in the trail, you reach
THE FORKS OF THE QUESNELL..... 8
Whole distance from Cayoosh Flat by the River trail, one hundred and ninety miles.

Cross the south fork by ferry to the village of Quesnell--(pronounced, canal).

Probably by this time the most hardy adventurer on the route is beginning to be well satisfied that it is no easy matter to get to Cariboo, for though on paper I have not represented the trails to be very difficult of passage, you have doubtless found the Brigade trail bad enough, and the River trail, if you passed that way, just the worst of all trails that mortal man ever ought to think of getting over alive. Swamps and sloughs, hills, mountains, and along precipices until your head would swim; but no matter, we are now at Quesnell, another grand point on the route to Cariboo, for we are not quite there yet.

Here almost anything really required by the miner can be obtained at fair prices, which means, five or six times as much as the same articles can be had for at Victoria; for though a packer and interested in the sale of merchandise, I state this as true, and therefore that every man that can should obtain his outfit, provisions and tools, at Victoria, if able to pack

them through; it may cause him a deal of trouble and delay on the way, but he will save money by the operation.

Now for Cariboo, and if early in the season or before the first of June, every man must pack on his back, not only his "grub," but the necessary mining tools. Later in the season, say by first of July, animals are able to traverse most of the routes among the principal minging localities, and this is as soon as it will be found profitable to reach the mines; before this very little can be done on account of the depth of the snow.

If, however, you possess ample means to buy your meals on the way, they can be procured at the several stations along the route, but at prices that will set you thinking of your "bottom dollar," unless your purse reaches to your boots.

Well, here we go. From Quesnell follow up the east bank of the north fork, cross Spanish creek, and over a very bad and difficult trail,

TO TOLL BRIDGE..... 8

Cross, and follow up the west bank to Keithley's creek, which flows into Little Cariboo lake. Here is another village of considerable pretensions, and a point from which radiate several routes. In a south-easterly direction, distant four miles, is Goose creek, that will pay from fifteen to twenty dollars a day to the man, and yet abandoned for better. Northeasterly from Keithley's, distant seven miles, is Harney's creek, along which for miles are diggings that in any other country than Cariboo would be called rich.

Keithley's may be said to be the beginning of the Cariboo mines, or the southern limit of the same.

From this point we take a mountain trail, and a hard one it is, till you make a descent

TO LITTLE CREEK..... 6

There is good camping here. Now on to Snow Shoes creek, which we follow up

TO THE CROSSING..... 8

We now cross over Snow Shoes mountain, difficult only on account of the depth of the snow, in the early part of the season, it being very deep till quite the first of June; you now pass down

TO FAIR CAMPING GROUND..... 8

Another hard tramp and you reach

ANTLER CITY.....12

Whole distance from Quesnell to Antler City and creek, forty-two miles, and we are in Cariboo. But now "comes the tug of war," or rather mining, in the most inhospitable, rugged, rainy and snowy country that gold was ever found in I am sure; but as the advice of "only a packer" would be little heeded by old California miners, I shall content myself with finishing up my oft traveled routes, with their distances, and then with a few general remarks, leave the Cariboo miner to make a princely fortune in about the shortest time that a fortune was ever made; or, after a few, very few, brief months of disappointment, see him on his weary way back to the abodes of civilization, a wiser man in all that relates to Cariboo.

From Antler City

TO MOUNTAIN LAKE HOUSE..... 10

5. ROUTE TO CARIBOO.

From the Lake House to and down Lightning creek
TO END OF CANON..... 10
There are rich diggings on this creek for many miles below this point. From Lightning canon, north and west,
TO VAN WINKLE CREEK..... 12
This is a tributary of Lightning creek, and lower down is
LAST CHANCE..... 5
There is a mountain trail and more direct, from the Lake House to Last Chance, that leaves Lightning canon and Van Winkle creek to the right and shortens the distance five or six miles.
JACK OF CLUBS CREEK heads near the Lake House. From Jack of Clubs
TO BURNS' CREEK..... 9
From thence pass over the Three Ridges
TO NELSON'S Creek..... 6
From Nelson's
TO WILLOWS CREEK..... 4

So little is known of the country directly to the north of the present Cariboo mines, that to this day it is a matter of doubt whether Antler creek is tributary to Bear river or Willows creek, and the same is true of Grouse creek. Both run northwardly and discharge their waters into almost impenetrable--because densely timbered--swamps.

William's Jack of Clubs, Burns' and Nelson's creeks, all of which have proved rich, with several other not yet prospected, are all tributaries of Willows creek; whilst Van Winkle, Chisolm, Last Chance, Davis, Peters, Louhie and other creeks lower down and never yet prospected, are tributaries of Lightning creek.

And now, after nearly a three years' experience in Cariboo, sometimes wielding the pick and shovel, but for the most part guiding the sometimes stubborn, but always patient mule over mountain snows and deep morass, you would like perhaps to know just what I think of it, as a gold producing country, and the chances for securring a fortune in it, from mining.

The extent of the mining country known even now as Cariboo, has been greatly underrated; very many have limited it to forty or fifty square miles; The fact is, it is over forty miles in extent from north to south, and as many miles, or more, from east to west, and this alone gives an area of one hundred and sixty square miles, instead of only forty. No one can deny the probability that equally rich diggings to any yet discovered, will be opened out as soon as the remaining, as well as adjoining, untouched ravines, creeks and rivers' beds shall have been prospected. I believe it to be a vastly rich gold field; but with one of the most inhospitable and rigorous climates in which man ever dug for gold, with about five chances against, to one in favor, of making a fortune.

Too many persons go to Cariboo with entirely mistaken notions of the difficulties to be encountered; they will not believe one-half that is told them of the fatigues of the journey or the labor necessary to open out successfully a paying claim; they base their calculations too much upon previous experience in California or elsewhere, which will not apply to the gold fields of Cariboo. No man going there should expect to make much more than expenses the first season, unless he is able to buy into a good paying claim at once. The cost of prospecting for a claim is offentimes enormous, on account of the high price of provisions and supplies of every kind. You cannot take a mule, pack him with "grub," tools and blankets, and start off on a two or three weeks' prospecting tour, as in California. The extreme roughness of the hill lands, and quagmire condition of the low country is so densely timbered that

even grass cannot grow in sufficient abundance to maintain animals, at the same time that it presents almost an impenetrable barrier to progress.

But even these obstacles might be in a measure overcome, and the mines more rapidly developed, but for the extreme shortness of the season. Four months is the longest term of surface mining that can be hoped for, and during that short period a great deal of the time drenching rains are falling and flooding everything around you--mining claim, camping grounds, tents--nothing escapes the constant soaking; so that if you succeed against all these drawbacks, in hunting up, prospecting and fairly opening out a good claim, ready for the second season's successful operations, you may consider yourself fortunate.

That mining will be more generally successful in the Cariboo country after better roads shall have been opened up, and living becomes cheaper, there is no doubt, because the gold is there and will never be let alone. My opion is, that extremely rich hill or deep diggings will soon be found all through the Cariboo country, and many of these will doubtless give winter as well as summer employment to thousands.

I have seen the steady progress of the gold seeker northward, and yet further north, from the lowermost bar on Fraser river to the extreme of Cariboo. I have visited again and again nearly every gulch and ravine on the south to the present northern limit of exploration where pack animals could be got through, and without animals, have penetrated more than seventy miles still further north and east, and my opinion is, that Bear river and its hundreds of tributaries will be found another Cariboo, in the extent and richness of its gold deposits; but only to be developed by the same slow progress that has characterized the movements of the mining adventurer northward from the gold producing bars of the lower Fraser, for the past four years. The country and climate together are so forbidding, that the progress of the prospector onward must necessarily be slow.

In regard to the proper time for starting for Cariboo, no advice that I can give will avail anything, because advice will not be heeded. Every man seems determined to be a little ahead of his fellow adventurer, and so rushes on, regardless of real facts and truthful evidence that ought to be sufficient to teach sensible men better.

Even now, March second, there are hundreds here at Victoria, and along the route between here and Cayoosh Flat, who are now satisfied that they are all of two months too early, the first of May being soon enough to leave Victoria. The past winter has been one of unusual severity throughout the entire Fraser river country. A greater depth of snow than for years before, now covers the ground, and renders transit, except upon snow shoes, next to impossible; and unless we get unusually early, warm rains, the opening of the mining season promises to be all of a month later than usual.

I do not propose to tell the California miner what he needs to make himself comfortable on the way, or after he gets there; he is presumed to know, or thinks he knows, better than any one else can tell him. I will only say, that he had better make his calculations for a decidedly rainy time throughout the whole of the summer and mining season, instead of the almost total absence of rain as in the mining regions of California.

I have often been asked, "Did you ever see a Cariboo?" and, what kind of an animal is it?"

7. ROUTE TO CARIBOO.

During the three years that I have traversed the Cariboo country, as well as the adjoining country for sixty or seventy miles to the west, north and east, I have never seen a Cariboo, though I have often seen the "Elephant" of that country. The best evidence to be obtained in the country, from those who have often seen the animal, and apart from the opinion of naturalists who have made mention of it, is that it is a kind of mongrel Reindeer; the form of its antlers, which are often found, are certain evidence that it is neither the Elk or Stag.

There is no reliance to be placed upon game in Cariboo as a means of subsistence. Grouse are, in a few places, aboundant, and fish are quite plentiful in the lakes that are not alkaline; wild fowls are to some extent procurable along the swamps, marshy and lake lands, but as a whole, the game of the country is hardly worth the time required to capture it. There are no venomous reptiles in Cariboo.

Commending the foregoing to the careful consideration of the adventurer, as my honest opinion of the country and its approachable routes, their advantages and disadvantages, I leave him to form his own opinion of his chances for a fortune, or a return with nothing more than having obtained a tolerably fair view of the "Elephant" of Cariboo.