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BACK IN THE YUKON.

SCHWATKA AND PARTY EXPLORE A RIVER.

The Newberry a Tributary of the Yukon. Has Many Rapids—A Moose Takes Into Camp—Bark of the Lynx Causes a Little Surprise.

[The Associated Press Correspondent.]

YUKON RIVER, British N. W. T., June 24, 1891.—The last letter left us at the entrance to the canyon of the Alsek chain. This stream has a number of names. When I passed its mouth in 1883, as the first person in the country to land on exploration I called it the Newberry river, the miners of the region, the only civilized people in the land and the first to traverse its length call it the Hootalinqua; the Indians of its lower parts give it an unpronounceable name, while the Tinglits at its source call it the Teh-l-koon, the eques-

trian of Rapid river. At our first camp on it, near its head, it is about one hundred and twenty-five yards wide and a current of four miles an hour. There were myriads of swallows burrowing in the white clay. I noticed recently the comments of a northern traveler who asserts that the dense swarms of mosquitoes so common near the Arctic circle are always found just beyond the northern limit of the swallows' homes, drawing laudable inferences as to the usefulness of those birds as mosquito destroyers. Now I found them later living in comparative harmony or, at least, the swallows made no appreciable inroads on the pests.

Late in the afternoon we saw two large otter among the submerged brush on the west bank. They seemed to be playing as we came suddenly upon them and both parties were so surprised at the encounter that each feared the other out of consideration before the big brutes realized there was any danger or the kindness that they had weapons to make it dangerous. We did not bring any meat home with us. The first indication of ducks on the river was not one of life but the evergo. The next day we passed a recently made grave on the east bank. Over it was a tent with two shaved logs, 10 to 12 feet high, alongside. It was possible that some victim may have fallen to the ravages of "la grippe" for it has been epidemic among the tribes of the far Northwest as I ascertained at different points. We often tied the folding canvas boats together for company's sake, but we soon stopped this, however, for in rounding a rough rocky point we came suddenly into a short chute of rapids that played havoc with the boats tied together, slopping water and shaking spray over some books and papers laid out for map-making etc. The boats had stood about twice this height on the water before on the lake, riding them like ducks, but tied together they were unmanageable as a raft. We pulled ashore, built a fire and dried out the worst splashed books and papers. These side rapids were quite common, but the worst danger to be properly met and was met in the rolling of the waves they formed so much as in the high banks they often cut under, and which occasionally came tumbling down in a way that would stick a canal boat let alone a light canoe. Several times during the day we saw the river cut of its banks and at a few points reaching from bluff to bluff. Some trails on the side hills were occasionally seen, but none of them comparatively fresh. This is the land of moose and caribou, the latter being decidedly the greater trail-making animal of the two, the former more of a rambler through the river bottoms and low valleys. Just before camping we could see distant blue mountains, probably twenty to twenty-five miles away, and stretching off in that continuous hazy aspect that generally indicates a distant stream and, if so in this case, is presumed to be the Yukon. That day's run was fifty-eight miles, our best record. Just after camping one of the party saw a large cat-like animal in the woods that was hastily disappearing. The lynx is the only one of the cat family in these northern woods, although I have heard a miner assert there was a recent rumor, generally believed, that a panther had been seen in the Yukon valley near the Alaska-British boundary. If this rumor be correct this is the northernmost point they have ever been observed. The night is succinctly in my diary as giving us the fewest mosquitoes we had yet had on the trip and right here I might add that I found these torments by far less numerous than in my trip through the Yukon valley in 1883, when they passed a limit beyond the reach of eighteen languages. As Russell has passed two previous seasons in this Yukon river valley and speaks of them as about equal to the normal, near 1, was forced to believe that this year must have been a prize year for the pests. I feel sure I do not exaggerate when I state I found a half dozen in 1883 to every one in 1891. The miners have the usual grumbler tendency exaggerate to say, and their ideas of this nuisance insect. One declared he could tell no difference between the Yukon and Hootalinqua rivers that he could make several miles per hour through the dense swarms with his hands, knife and nothing it left on the blood trickle from the blade, while a tobacco-chewing companion asserted that at one locality on the Yukon he would have to thrust his Winchester rifle barrel into the mass and withdraw it quickly to get a place to spit. Again the foreman of the mill we heard a lynx scream in the woods of a heavily timbered valley leading off to the West, showing that these animals were fairly numerous in these parts. Early in the afternoon of that day as we were slowly drifting down near the western bank, the boats close together, a moose was seen on the opposite bank beginning on the low trailing day was built and apparently unconscious of our presence. The Winchester scout rifle was in Russell's boat, and to him fell the task of a shot at the animal from the turning bank, a good hundred 150 to 200 yards away. The movements in the boats attracted the attention of the unsuspecting fool and a few hurrying strokes of the animal fleet. This presented a fair shot at the very moment when the best shot at large game is nearly always presented, or not when one assumes that motion his swing and remains rigidly fixed and stationary for a few seconds seemingly uncertain what to do. The moose now stopped partially out from cover to satisfy its curiosity as to our identity and the next second the rifle cracked, the animal plunging forward as if struck, but after several stumblings due either to the effect of the shot or the tangled drift, wood through which it plunged, it recovered, and before another effective shot could be made, disappeared in the woods. From our point of view we could see that the moose was an old bull, and hoping that it had been hit hard enough to make it reluctant to take to the water beyond the island we got our easy oars in a jiffy and rowed across as only sanitted Minnesota can when the prize is a big one; losing less in downward drift than that which of the river, despite the swift current. It fell to Russell to finish his work, but with no shot heard by us, no fire saw he had killed what we saw him reloading in the distance. Upon rejoining us he said he had seen the moose again at a great distance running, but instead of seeing one a herd of three, and that none of these appeared to be injured in the least; all disappearing in a twinkle just as he fairly set his eyes upon them. But the most surprising part of all to everybody was the fact that there was a dead two-year-old moose bull, just recently killed, about one hundred yards up the river from where the boats had stopped and Russell had first landed. It had been found by Russell, who, after seeing the others safely out of sight, had returned by way of the cottonwood tree to determine if he could find any traces to verify that he had wounded the animal shot at, and was utterly dumbfounded and correspondingly elated to find that he had killed a whole moose. To prove it, the animal having been instantly killed by a shot through the heart, the very part at which he had aimed. There seemed to be only one way to explain it. When the first shot was fired at the partially hidden moose it was instantly killed, but just as it dropped a near comrade, that had not been seen at all, rushed into sight and by dancing deliriously through the driftwood had managed to bellow it was wounded but after wheeling and joining the two others in the brush had escaped as narrated. Russell's rifle had only dropped the moose but its curiously had secured us the meat which otherwise would have been passed by and we would have chronicled this boarding incident as a failure. This moose was the first large game Russell had ever killed, although a good shot and lurking for quite a while on the front for prospecting and mining. We took both hams and the choice bits, not forgetting the greatest delicacy to the Russians who ascend Alaska before us, the nose, and sailed away again regretting that we were compelled to leave so much fine meat behind us. In fifteen minutes afterwards we floated out of the Newberry into the Yukon. The doctor's dead reckoning made the former 124 miles long from Mt. Arthur's valley plateau-spur and impressive throughout, while, in a more practical view, it was easily navigable for its whole length.

ON THE YUKON.

FREDERICK SCHWATKA.

Commanding U. S. Lynch Expedition.

A 13-Year-Old Heroine.

An English miss who has recently performed the noble act of saving a human life is Gwendoline Evans, of Birmingham, aged 13. Her opportunity came while bathing on the seashore, and when Chelmondley Thompson, a London youngster of 15 years, overweighted, perhaps, by his name, was sinking in the heavy swell she swam out and saved him. The Royal Humane society has given her a bronze medal. Miss Evans learned to swim at one of the Birmingham public baths, and can swim a mile at a stretch.

The "Passion" Play.

The "Passion" Play is to be performed by redskins at a great gathering of Christian Canadian Indians, in Kamloops, B. C., next June. Rev. Father Lacombe is organizing the meeting, and it is expected that some 7,000 Christian Indians from various parts of British Columbia and many pagan reds will be in attendance. The "Passion" Play is to be an incident of the gathering and not its main feature.

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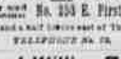

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