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ON SOME NEW LAKES AND A LITTLE-KNOWN PART OF CENTRAL NEWFOUNDLAND.

By J. G. MILLAIS, F.Z.S.

SOMETIME in the eighties the well-known geographer, Mr. Howley, undertook to map as much as possible of the centre and southern part of Newfoundland. For this purpose, he chose a route from the east at Alexander bay. All the coast-dwellers and men who had been a short distance into the interior after furs or caribou said he would certainly fail, owing to the difficulties of transport. However, thanks to the skilful guiding of an Indian and the efficient support of his men, Howley succeeded in getting right up the rocky Terra Nova river, past Mollygojack lake, and along the ground to the north of St. John's lake, where he seems to have roughly mapped the country by eye-sketching; eventually he turned south, and out to the southern coast through the dense country of the Kaegudeck and Meddonegonnix lakes. Howley mapped very accurately his actual line of route and the country within view, and succeeded in making an excellent journey where others would have failed. To this day, however, a very large portion of Central Newfoundland is less known than Central Africa, and much work remains to be done in the square enclosed on the north-west by the Annieopsquolch mountains, on the south-west by the La Poile river, on the south-east by the Meddonegonnix Lake river, and the north-east by the Gander river. The interior of the country, too, lying immediately north of the southern coast is also unknown, no hunting or other parties ever penetrating this region.

Some years after Howley's successful journey, another scientific expedition left the coast by the same route. The leader was a good man and a good geographer, but had little knowledge of Indians and their ways. He knew how to equip an expedition and how to map, but in this case, what was quite as important a matter, he did not possess tact, nor did he know that it was unwise to contradict a red man flatly, and differ on the subject of a country of which as yet he knew nothing. Arrived at St. John's lake, the leader turned to a man from the coast who likewise had never been so far before, and said, "Jim, how long is this lake?" "Fourteen miles, boss," replied the man. "Lake 5 miles long," broke in the Indian. "I'm sure it is double that distance," unwisely suggested the first white man, gazing into the hazy distance. The Indian gave a grunt, and half an hour afterwards the second expedition to St. John's lake was lamenting the loss of its guide. The whole party then immediately returned to the coast.

As each year drove the caribou from the coast, the men from Alexander bay kept following them further and further into the interior. It was considered impossible to work up the Terra Nova river, and few had ever ventured beyond Pinson's brook, where rapids

PART OF CENTRAL NEWFOUNDLAND showing position of new lakes by J. G. Millais.

begin. The usual plan was to wait till the ice formed on the Terra lake, and then sledge up this and George's pond to the western end, and hunt the high country on the western plateaux. Every year, however, the caribou kept moving further west, till three years ago the men reached the furthest point which was known to them, namely, "Island pond," a beautiful sheet of water dotted with many wooded islands, and lying immediately to the north of St. John's lake. Here the hunters got all the caribou they wanted in a day, and retired to the coast again without penetrating further.

It was Mr. Frederick C. Selous, the well-known African traveller, who next (1900) trod these wilds after Howley's expedition. Practically in the middle of winter, he made a considerable tramp right across the high plateau beyond George's pond, and as far as the river that comes into St. John's lake at the north-western end. Here food gave out, and he and his packers had to retreat as fast as possible to their base camp on George's pond. With him went one Robert Saunders, an excellent guide, who expressed the opinion to Mr. Selous that it would be possible to ascend the Terra Nova river in the autumn, if proper canoes were taken, and hunt caribou at the western end of St. John's lake, where the deer were expected to be numerous. This Mr. Selous did the following autumn (1901), taking five days to ascend the rivers and lakes, and enjoyed such excellent sport on Lake St. John that it was for him unnecessary to travel further than his base camp, which I have named Indian Lookout.

Thanks to my friend Selous, I obtained his guides in the autumn of 1902, and followed the same route up the Terra Nova. I also made a base camp at Indian Lookout; but not finding caribou here, I crossed the lake to the north-west, and cut a road with the axe through the dense timber up to the high ground above, which I had previously seen with the telescope. There I made another camp, from which I searched all the unknown country to the north-east and north-west by making short expeditions of a night or two, and sleeping out in a reindeer bag.

It is, perhaps, necessary to go back for a little way and say a few words on the geographical features and general appearance of the country on the way up the Terra Nova river. After leaving the railway at Terra Nova station, the traveller passes up a river-lake system of about 4 miles before entering the large Terra Nova lake, which is some 8 miles long. On each side are dense forests sometimes several miles broad, and sometimes as narrow as a mile, this depending entirely on the elevation of the mountain plateaux, which generally rise gradually away from the river to an approximate elevation of 500 feet. Where the ground is flat it is boggy, and the timber exceedingly dense—so dense, in fact, that in most places a man cannot get through without the help of an axe. As the forests rise, however, they become more open, and higher still they are interspersed with little opens,

VIEW FROM NORTH-EAST ARM OF MILLAIS LAKE, LOOKING SOUTH-WEST.

locally called small "barrens." The most common trees are white and red pine, dogwood, hazel, rowan, birch, and white poplar, whilst along the river-edges are often dense masses of alder.

After leaving the western end of the Terra Nova lake, the traveller paddles easily up the main stream of the river for 5 or 6 miles until nightfall. During the next two days the current is too strong for boat work, and the river so full of rocks and rapids that you must travel along the stones and boulders by the water's edge whilst your men labour with the canoe, now pulling it through the streams and wading deep to keep the fragile craft from being smashed on the jagged rocks. It is cold and rough work for the men, but Newfoundlanders are used to hardship, and lie down at night without changing, "to steam the water out of them," they say. If you are lucky, you will reach the fine lake of Mollygojack on the third day, a grand sheet of water about 12 miles round, and dotted with a few islands, on which the great northern divers breed. Another day of hard toil for the men and rough walking for the traveller brings you to St. John's lake. This is always a difficult lake to traverse, as, lying almost due east and west, a slight breeze from the west renders it almost impossible to face without getting swamped. We were fortunate, however, on the ingoing journey, having a fine evening on which to paddle over the glassy surface. A female caribou stood gazing at us in the shallows, and flocks of dusky duck (*Anas obscurus*) and Canadian geese (*Anser canadensis*) drifted out of our way as we moved quickly up to the old-time battered tree of Indian Lookout. I thought this would be the end of our journey, but it was really only the beginning, for big stags showed no signs of coming. Consequently I resolved to go and meet them, and moved camp, as I have already described, to the high plateau on the north-west end of Lake St. John.

We are now in completely new ground, where Saunders, who is the pioneer of the hunting fraternity, asserted no white men had ever been in previous years. Everything bore promise of the numbers of caribou that frequent these woods by the abundance of deep time-worn trails in every direction, but the weather being simply perfect, and the temperature that of the south of France, the large stags showed no signs of moving out of their summer retreats, although the does had already commenced to travel. Consequently there was little to be done in the hunting line, so I tramped the country in every direction, taking bearings and making sketches for the small map here figured. Immediately to the north of the ridge above St. John's lake there is a long hollow sparsely covered with stunted larch and surrounded by woods on the west. Taking two bearings of 45° from each end of St. John's lake, and at an apex of 2 miles from the larger sheet of water, we came to a smaller lake about a mile long, which I have called Chough's pond. From this pond runs a little stream flowing due east for 2 miles, where it empties itself into the fine lake of Island pond. Island pond is about

5 miles in circumference. Though Howley must have passed close to the lake in his journey, it is not marked on his or any subsequent map. Except on its eastern margin, where the plateau rises somewhat abruptly to about 700 feet, the surrounding country is much broken and wooded, whilst the lake itself is dotted with numerous small islands covered with trees.

After spending some days to the eastward travelling and sketching, during which I shot two fine caribou stags, I next turned my attention to the north country. Passing directly north in the direction of the headwaters of the Gander, the traveller, after leaving the hollow with Chough's pond, rises gradually for several hundred feet, and finds himself in a wide open plateau composed of "dry ground," *i.e.* hard rock and stunted bushes. The general geological conditions are at once seen to be more northern from the presence of various lichens and arctic mosses, whilst the keen bracing air denotes a considerable altitude. It was from the northern edge of this high plateau that on September 10 we first caught sight of a new lake lying in a great basin surrounded by the usual well-nigh impenetrable forest. Saunders, my guide, at once said that this must be the lake he had once heard an Indian speak of as being a place where he had once speared many deer, but to which he could give no name nor indicate its position. The following day, after making a forced march, we determined to reach the lake and examine its eastern end, where there was a broad barren that joined two great forests. It took us three hours' hard work to make our way in the descent to the lake-shore. The distance from the open ridge to the water was only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, but such close forest I have nowhere encountered in other parts of the world where I have hunted.

Once arrived at the Sandy Beach, at the eastern end there is a glorious view of the surface of the new lake, which Mr. Reid kindly expressed a wish to name after myself. The whole lake is not so broad as St. John's, but it is considerably larger, and carries a greater volume of water. About 3 miles from the eastern limit, two long points of land project into the lake, and give the whole the appearance of an egg-glass. Forests entirely surround the lake, whose sides are for the most part steep, and devoid of beaches. The circumference must be estimated at about 20 miles. At the eastern end there flows in a good-sized stream (heavily stocked with the beautiful onananche or land-locked salmon), which percolates from the east, rising on the high ground above George's pond, and flowing west down a broad valley about 2 miles to the north of Island pond.

A glance at any map of Central Newfoundland will show a fair-sized river falling into the western end of St. John's lake. It is marked as coming from due west, but in reality it does not come from this direction, but issues from the western end of Millais's lake to the north, where, after pursuing a southerly direction for some miles, it turns

gradually to the east till it enters St. John's lake at the point indicated. During the following week I packed over and made a camp by the new lake, where I remained hunting and sketching for a fortnight. During this time I traversed all the vicinity through, not surmounting the high ridge to the north, which divides this country from the Triton brook, and which is also practically unknown.

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS.

THE arrangements for the Eighth International Geographical Congress, which, as is known to readers of the *Journal*, will meet next year at Washington, are now taking shape under the care of a committee (presided over by Prof. W J McGee) representing the ten geographical societies and mountaineering clubs of the United States, which have united to welcome the geographers of all nations to American soil. According to a circular issued in June last, the Congress will meet in Washington on September 8, 1904, and will hold daily sessions on the 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of the month. Arrangements have been made provisionally for an excursion from Washington to St. Louis, *viâ* Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Niagara falls, and Chicago, between September 15 and 20, during which the Congress will be entertained by the Societies having their head-quarters at places on this route, the foreign members and associates being, it is expected, the guests of the ten societies collectively. At St. Louis, the members and associates of the Congress will take part in the International Congress of Arts and Sciences connected with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, where a geographical exhibit is also planned. In case any considerable number of members so desire, a general excursion will be arranged from St. Louis *viâ* Laredo and the Mexican railway to the City of Mexico, thence *viâ* the Mexican Central and El Paso to Santa Fé, and so to the Grand Cañon of the Colorado and on to San Francisco and the Golden Gate, where the Western Geographical Societies will extend special hospitality; afterwards returning by way of Mount Shasta, Portland, and Mount Tacoma, and through the Northern Rocky mountains and the interior plains to the eastern ports. It is expected that special rates, from 25 to 40 per cent. below the ordinary, will be secured on this excursion.

The subjects for treatment and discussion during the meeting at Washington are classified under the following heads:—

1. Physical Geography, including Geomorphology, Meteorology, Hydrology, etc.
2. Mathematical Geography, including Geodesy and Geophysics.
3. Biogeography, including Botany and Zoology in their geographical aspects.
4. Anthropogeography, including Ethnology.
5. Descriptive Geography, including Explorations and Surveys.
6. Geographical Technology, including Cartography, Bibliography, Orthography of place-names, etc.
7. Commercial and Industrial Geography.
8. History of Geography.
9. Geographical Education.

The committee urge that early notice be given by those desirous of presenting communications or proposing subjects for discussion, July 1, 1904, being fixed as the latest date for submitting communications designed for printing in connection with the Congress, and August 1 in the case of abstracts (not exceeding 1000 words in length) designed for insertion in the daily bulletin.