

George

S.E. Side Tatlayoko L.

Sept 5. 75.

Dear Father

A mail carrier is going out from here tomorrow, & I take the opportunity of writing home. I have got so far on my journey, & am now camped near Mr Cambie's Surveying party, waiting to get a couple of extra horses, & hoping to get off again day after tomorrow or thereabouts. I have pushed through to here rather fast, not knowing how far Mr Cambie might get of time was lost on the way. From here I return nearly on the same track for three days, & then strike N.W.E. for Blackwater. So far I have not met with anything of great geological interest by the way, the country being when one would want wish to see something of the rocks, thickly timbered. Here in the eastern range of the Cascade Mountains, surrounded on all sides by snowy peaks, - some in this immediate vicinity standing 6000 feet above the lake - there is no want

of rock exposures; but the features are on
so grand a scale that one can do but little. Our
only chief object in coming here was to visit
a locality where fossils were reported to occur
in great abundance. It is about 6 miles from
this Camp, & I spent part of a day there. The
fossils are nearly all of one kind, & look like
Synodus. Evidently mesozoic & perhaps probably
Cretaceous. They are very numerous, but in an
exceedingly hard pink sandstone or quartzite. On
one or two pieces fallen from the cliffs I saw
impressions of roots or branches of trees, but
not recognizable or identifiable. There is a
magnificent section in the mountains on
this side of the lake of several thousand feet of
conformable strata, to which the fossil-bearing
beds belong, but a measurement yet would
require at least a weeks mountain
climbing which I cannot now afford. The
beds are probably the representatives of those
called the Jackson Out-series by Mr Selwyn,
& may eventually connect it with the
coal producing rocks of Vancouver Island.

In coming in here from Soda Creek, we have had frost-nearly every clear night, but-yet the quite warm weather in the middle of the day. The last few days have been broken & stormy, but-I hope we have now-about-the last-of-it.

The scenery about-here is very fine. This lake is about sixteen miles long, & filled with clear blue water evidently very deep. It runs westward right into the heart of the Cascades, & then discharges its waters by the Homathco R, into Puget Sound. It is curious that not only the Fraser but so many smaller streams should rise East of the Cascades, & flow quite through them to the Pacific. In full view at-the S. end of the lake, up among the mountains is a real glacier with moraine lines distinctly visible on it, & close by the camp a large brook enters the lake which from its milky & turbid appearance must also originate from a glacier up among the mountains to the South East. Glacial striation appears in this valley, but exactly following its general direction. I also observed glacial scratching near the mouth of the Chilacotin R about 3500 feet above the sea level on top of the basaltic plateau

See in a Toronto Globe brought in by the mail
Carrier yesterday, among other items, the announcement
of the discovery of Coal in the vicinity of St-Francois
Painy R. You will remember Russell sending me
Samples from there last winter which were analyzed &
mentioned in my Report. I wonder whether anything
more definite has come to light on the question.
I hope there is so way things when I get up to my
letters at Blackwater about what has been going on,
including Oatis your visit to Detroit & 2.02.
Please let me know from time to time how
the Pictou iron business proceeds. I hope you will
not have any more trouble about it, at any
rate, & if there is anything further I can do in
it - please let me know.

I hope I shall be able to connect with Mr
Schuyler when he passes through on his way back,
& shall certainly make an effort to do so if
I can learn anything definite as to date.
With love & all at home

Yours affectionate Son

George