



SMD

GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY,
Alfred R. C. Selwyn, C.M.G., L.L.D., F.R.S., Director.
MUSEUM AND OFFICE, SUSSEX ST., OTTAWA.

Pelly River. 29 July 87

My dear father,

I seem to write to you semi-officially each time to report progress, & no doubt this is the best way of reaching the family generally. We got over to the river here today, about noon, somewhere near the site of old Ft. Pelly Banks of the H.B.C. We have seen no traces of the old fort. Besides Mr. McLoay, my assistant, I have two white men & five Coast Indians. The Indians turn back from here tomorrow morning while we make preparations for descending the Pelly, & decide whether to utilize the shell of a canvas boat I brought over, to build a boat, or make a raft. We left supplies cached in two places for the Indians returning, besides the sticks of a raft on Livlaxson's, & our two boats on

Frances Lake. They should get back to
 the mouth of the Stickeen in about 20 days,
 when this should be posted. We have had a
 long & pretty rough trip yet. So far up rapid
 rivers & over this terrible long portage.
 Found no local Indians & had to bare
 along as our own account. We sign that the
 Indians use the old portage of old time, &
 we had to struggle through tangled woods
 generally knee deep with soft snow, the
 men carrying packs of 100 lbs in weight.
 Here we are, however, with a good month's
 supply of provisions for four men, & I
 hope we may not meet with any further
 great difficulties. As I noted above we
 have seen no local Indians & have heard
 nothing to make us fear any trouble
 on the lower river. I think now we may
 be able to make the round trip & get
 back to the Coast before the rivers freeze,
 but if not you must not expect to
 hear from us, as there might be no
 chance of sending letters out till late in

the winter. weather very warm & summer-
 like just at present & mosquitoes terribly
 numerous & I have just had a long talk
 with Indians trying to settle up with them
 about payment. I would never have
 succeeded in getting them so far from
 home into the foreign interior but for
 the fact that the further they went the
 more was owing to them. They are now
 all very glad & turn their faces homeward,
 some are from the mouths of the Stickeen,
 some from Mulla Kalla or Somenbas
 or the Skeena. The days are beginning to
 draw in a little perceptibly. That is to
 say it is a little dark about
 midnight. For the past two months
 it has been almost continuous daylight
 or twilight. It must be a terribly gloomy
 winter country, yet there is nothing arctic
 in its appearance now. Well from

trees in the woods, a great number of
the ordinary Eastern plants in flower,
with some stragglers & only the great
growth of sphagnum mosses & the
white & grey reindeer moss making the
woods look somewhat different from those
in other parts of B.C., or rather other
parts of the west slope, for we are now of
course north of B.C. I have quite a lot of
business waiting to do this evening yet, &
so cannot make much of a letter. Ann
is excellent health & now in good training
for walking of any kind. Love to all
at home & excuses to others for not
writing to them individually.

Your affectionate son

George

Have not heard a word of outside news
of any kind since May & do not
wonder the least how what is occupying
the attention of the world at large. Concerned
the only with our own domestic affairs.