IGHT INTO CASSIAR MIN-G REGION AND TROPICAL ALLEY DESCRIBED BY OLIN CALDWELL

(continued from page four)

moose and called to Col. Williams bannock. As he did not come ediately I went to see why and dishe had been intercepted by a with two cubs which he was bluffing. Luckily his bluff wasn't

TROPICAL VALLEY

last place we visited before comout was the fabled 'Tropical Valcolored and exaggerated press acts of which have been so scepticreceived. We had heard vague acts of the valley while at Liard based mainly upon the meagre mation of Indians, and also about rospector and trapper, Tom Smith, his daughter who had wandered and from the Yukon, had gone that region two years before and not been seen or heard from since. decided to make a trip to see if the really existed and if possible to trace of the missing pair.

knew that the mysterious region approximately two hunded miles n the post and accordingly took off od followed the course of the river. is punctuated with frequent terrapids. We had flown what we to be approximately the diswhen we reached a region of ar looking lakes. We thought them ar but there was perhaps nothing al about their aspect. They were ag to us since there was no other r bodies in the country for some erable distance in any direction. this must be the place we a landing on the river and tied a sandbar. With the machine we started out to scout. nost immediately we struck a

faint and apparently not used for ong while, but unmistakably a trail. bllowed this for about four hundred from the river and then surprisencountered a board nailed across Upon the piece of wood painted Code' followed by a jumble of es and signed Tom Smith. It baf-

just below the surface struck a which upon opening was found ontain two sheets of paper covered very legible handwriting. I canon to the effect that by following near the first hot

THE MESSAGE

The message, signed Tom Smith, condaughter had been living there for two years and seen no white man and were leaving for Fort Simpson which 'barring trouble with the Indians we expect to reach in the Spring.'

We progressed up the trail, the atmosphere becoming more torrid and guorous as we advanced. Shortly we reached the first hot spring and beyond that found the deserted oin. A little farther away, was the rden, rank and overgrown. From ere we started out to explore a limited area of the valley which appeared to about ten miles square in extent. Hot springs sprang from the ground

all over. Some of them just bubbled and ran straight away. Others formed the pools of various dimensions e had seen from the air. The rich I luxuriant growth and foliage was stinctly suggestive of a tropical re-Ferns grew to an enormous in a tangled mesh. Berries of ny kinds were growing in profusion of an extraordinary size. Flattened dine. About many of the little boillakes were large patches of purple plets of a size and beauty I had never known in other parts of Canada of an extraordinary lavishness and

me of that southern state. STRIKING OPERATION

Ve stayed two days and then flew ounted Police at Fort Simpson. They e river in a canoe, the craft had cap-Fort Simpson and was working for e Hudson's Bay Company.

With the summer's work completed returned to Laird post and left there the morning of August 28, landing noon of the same day at Wrangell, laska. From there we proceeded to starting point, Prince Rupert in ritish Columbia, covering the distance ver four hours, arriving on August 31. Thus was successfully terminated the aerial mining exploration trip in history of aeronauties and what I think was one of the most striking aircraft operations over isolated country ever carried out without a hitch.

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