

CAINTON COLDEN ARTHLERY FORT RAE BYPSUM MENZIE SLAVE FORT SMITA. THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE TOTAL ENGINEERING TOTAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY.

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Norman Robinson fonds

Album 5

Page 5-1 (front cover)

Page 5-2 Sketch map of Great Slave Lake On april 3 1924, I began a trip with Dogs from Fort Smith to Fort Revolution on Great Slave Lake across the hake and up the North army to Fort Rac. and back to Resolution - over you miles allowing for double tracking "- a distance which we did in about 6 weeks. It beffered the way. a survey party came out from attown to survey the shore line of the Lake. None of they had ever been in the north before encept no! Russell, the you in charge who had only been Inside " once W. W Longall, The Jovernmy out Recut at Fort Smith, asked me to go, nominally as dog driver. but in reality to give the party the herefit of my years of enference in that Country.

On April 3rd 1924, I began a trip with dogs from Fort Smith to Fort Resolution on Great Slave Lake, across the lake and up the "North Arm" to Fort Rae and back to Resolution—over two miles allowing for "double tracking"—a distance which we did in about 6 weeks.

It happened this way.

A Survey party came out from Ottawa to survey the shore line of the lake. None of them had ever been in the North before except Mr. Russell, the man in charge, who had only been "inside" once before.

W. McDougall, the Government Agent at Fort Smith, asked me to go, nominally as dog driver, but in reality to give the party the benefit of my years of experience in that country.

a further survey was to be carried out later in the year but this first part was to be done over the ice . Iring dogs . ·Our party consisted of W. Russell and three men hearder myself. W. Russell was a viry lettle Departmental Round Surveyor. from attowa. Pathetic eges like a marmoset, an appetite like a horse and trouble with his kedneys. Charlie mi Donald - his assistant . a student from Edmonton University. good all round man. Walter Jewett - wonderful peanist - student of same University. Once went on a drunk in Prince Rudert_ was shanghaied and taken on board a wind jammer where he spent two years before returning home. In Beth - Cook. Who said he was a look - we never found out. auguray he wasn't. a simple Farmer two words an hour style and tacked as if he was

A further survey was to be carried out later in the year, but this first part was to be done over the ice, driving dogs.

Our party consisted of Mr. Russell and three men besides myself.

Mr. Russell was a wiry little Departmental Land Surveyor from Ottawa. Pathetic eyes like a marmoset, an appetite like a horse and trouble with his kidneys. Charlie McDonald, his assistant, a student from Edmonton University, good all round man.

Walter Jewett, wonderful pianist, student of same university. Once went on a drunk in Prince Rupert, was shanghaid and taken on board a windjammer where he spent two years before returning home. McBeth, Cook, who said he was Cook, we never found out. Anyway, he wasn't. A simple farmer, two words an hour style and talked as if he was

chewing hay. Vacless. as is the case with all Survey Parties. we had an enormous cutfit to move - a lot of it quite useless he order to handle it - I hearded to take fine trains of dogs as far as Fort Revolution, aut to handle it with only two from that point as we could double track while the survey was heme pushed slowly ahead. Does are wondeful animals and can be used for either carrying loads or kulling thery.







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As in the care with all Survey Parties, we had an enormous outfit to move, a lot of it quite useless. In order to handle it, I decided to take five trains of dogs as far as Fort Resolution, but to handle it with only two from that point as we could double track while the survey was being pushed slowly ahead.

Dogs are wonderful animals and can be used for either carrying loads or pulling them.



owner is a well-to- to aution Standing irons rice from the top of the collar and usually termenate in a ball of ward whilst rubbono of many colours stream out in the wind. Each dog in the disture has the tail of a Selver Fax for his standing vroy. by their backs are Japees. velvet backed with canvas, beautifully decorated with wrollen floral decigns. The driver is usually dressed to match. headed or silk worked spoceasino - detto gloves or mitto - ditto Moore sking coat - a goudy silk hand kerchief around the neck a whip carried - pointed and decorated with wool. Truly a gay susemble. Harness is much the same as that of a house, Collar back a belly bands and traces.

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beautifully decorated, if the

A train of dogs is usually beautifully decorated, if the owner is a well-to-do Indian. "Standing-irons" rise from the top of the collar and usually terminate in a ball of wool whilst ribbons of many colours stream out in the wind. Each dog in the picture has the tail of a Silver Fox for his "standing-iron."

On their backs are "Tapees"—velvet backed with canvas, beautifully decorated with woollen [woolen] floral designs. The driver is usually dressed to match, beaded or silk worked moccasins, ditto gloves or mitts, ditto moose skin coat, a gaudy silk handkerchief around the neck, a whip carved, painted and decorated with wool. Truly a gay ensemble.

Harness is much the same as that of a horse, collar, back a belly bands and traces.

Having loaded our sleight, we started the Journey to Revolution. The trail follows the many rever most of the way, but there were cut- offs and perlages across country which were roometimes anything but easy going. and to all to our difficulties - m " Beth and Jewett hat no snow shoes, so we had to let them ride when ever it was brossible.

Having loaded our sleighs, we started to journey to Resolution. The trail followed the main river most of the way, but there were "cut-offs" and portages across country which were sometimes anything but easy going. And to add to our difficulties—McBeth and Jewett had no snowshoes, so we had to let them ride whenever it was possible.

Until we got to Resolution we could get no fish for day feed, so were forced to use Cory meal and Tallow. This necessitated an endless performence each · night when we camped. Snow had to be melted for water - commeal mixed. Then cooked - tallow addedthen the mess cooled a last but not least, one had to retain over the dogs while they are. Five trains of five dops each - twenty five dops in all - could put up a grand melee of they since Sot a good select. awing to





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Until we got to Resolution we would get no fish for dog feed, so we were forced to use corn meal and tallow. This necessitated an endless performance each night when we camped. Snow had to be melted for water, cornmeal mixed, then cooked, tallow added, then the mess cooled and last but not least, one had to stand over the dogs while they ate. Five trains of dogs each, twenty five dogs in all, could put up a grand melee if they once got a good start.

Owing to various difficulties, we made very poor time over the 145 miles to Resolution,

but the greatest delay was Coursed by the shortest of snow shoed. Our log ran as follows - 1 day 20 miles - 2 day 20 miles. 3 day 35 miles, 4 day 35 miles, 5 day 35 miles. Resolution was a bleak looking place when we avened. Very few Indraws were in the lost, and there were only a few stores and the hussion . anyway we were not stopping long. The state of the s Having sent three trains back to Smith - Charlie and I began to hand sufflies one full days my ahead. We had woughly 1700 pounds

but the great delay was caused by the shortage of snowshoes.

Our log ran as follows, 1st day 20 miles, 2nd day 20 miles, 3rd day 35 miles, 4th day 35 miles, 5th day 35 miles.

Resolution was a black looking place when we arrived. Very few Indians were in the Post and there were only a few stores and the Mission.

Anyway we were not stopped long.

Having sent three trains back to Smith, Charlie and I began to haul supplies one full days run ahead.

We had roughly 1700 pounds

to carry 9 could not to more than 400 to a load. my leader - there were 6 in my train, charle had 5 was a true Walemute half nolf, sout as a leader, intelligent, but savage and stubbory, and, although we were we had many a fight. generally Sound of each other. By the time hit. Russell was ready, we had howled everything except the last two loads, 20 we all pulled out together from Teacheting on april 15. 1924. Our first camp was at stoney Island where we had made our eache and from there on, so the

to carry and could not do move more than 400 to a load. My larder, there were 6 in my train, Charlie had 5, was a true Malamute, half wolf, good as a leader, intelligent, but savage and stubborn, and, although we were genuinely fond of each other, we had many a fight. By the time Mr. Russell was ready, we had hauled everything except the last two loads, so we all pulled out together from Resolution on April 15th, 1924.

Our first camp was at Stoney Island where we had made our cache and from there on, as the

Survey could only go at 10 miles a day - by hauling loads ahead & coming back for more, we could keep the freight a excepment right up in Leaving Stoney Esland at about 9 pm - after a good suffer of rabbet - we started for on Osland called gros goulet, with two loads. Our idea was to follow a chain of Islands across the Lake - 60 miles - to a point on the officite shore called From Cap. We had an old trail to follow - but my 1/2 wolf Ceder Merving was stulkery - unused to following when arriyone walked ahead, and wanted to turny back to def our last camp. So. Charlie had to my ahead of the Dogo and I had to drive both trains a let of extra work. Eventually about 2 or 3, a, my, we reached gros goulet, a huge, black rock, with no avoid in right and the

Survey could only go at 10 miles a day, by hauling loads ahead and coming back for more, we could keep the freight and equipment right up in the lead.

Leaving Stoney Island at about 9 pm, after a good supper of rabbit, we started for an island called Gros Goulet, with two loads.

Our idea was to follow a chain of Islands across the lake, 60 miles, to a point on the opposite shore called Gros Cap.

We had an old trail to follow, but my ½ wolf leader "Mervin" was stubborn, unused to "following" where anyone walked ahead, and wanted to turn back to our last camp. So, Charlie had to run ahead of the dogs and I had to drive both trains, a lot of extra work.

Eventually, about 2 or 3 a.m. we reached Gros Goulet, a huge, bleak rock, with no wood in sight and the

Comperature around 20 to 30 Degrees below zero. It seemed a serious predicament, but by define around the shore live, under the smoul. we got enough wood to bail our kettle It was too cold to sleep there, so we cached "our loads & returned to stoney Island, a nice evenings constitutional of 32 miles. Luckily we dedut have to waste time cooking Cory meal and Tallow for the Logo - we just threw them a few fish & rolled into our blankets. Dogs, provided they are not vicious. are left loose at night, curling up in the smoot with their moses tucked in under the tail - and if snow falls during the night - completely hidden by morning Even whilst still in harness they can be down and have a good rest

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Luckily we didn't have to waste time cooking corn meal and tallow for the dogs, we just threw them a few fish and rolled into our blankets. Dogs, provided they are not vicious are left loose at night, curling up in the snow, with their noses tucked in under the tail, and if snow falls during the night, completely hidden by morning. Even whilst still in harness they can lie down and have a good rest.

So we went from Island to Island till we reached gros Cap. From here we had to cross the by calet known as the north army of the hake, necessitating one night camping on the use. But that side warry no as we had brought some wood with us for cooking. The ice was rough in places and on this particular stretch the came to a fifteen or twenty ridge - two walls of ice standing feet high - leaving against each other. I warned the crowd to wait as these riges were

So we went from Island to Island till we reached Gros Cap. From here we had to cross the big inlet known as the North Arm of the Lake, necessitating one night camping on the ice. But that didn't worry us as we had brought some wood with us for cooking.

The ice was rough in places and on this particular stretch we came to a big pressure ridge, two walls of ice standing fifteen or twenty feet high, leaning against each other. I warned the crowd to wait as these ridges were

Daugerous and I wanted to test it with my axe till I found a safe place to take the dogs over. Tewett intimated that a little thing like that wouldn't stop him - started veroes & nearly lost his life when the their smow bridge broke away with him, If he had some through, we would have had five feet of ice to chop drough before we could reach him or them it would be practically impossible to locate him under the ice. across the North any from Wattonnable Point to gypsung local is about 20 miles. From the latter Point we were to follow the West side of the any to Fost Pae, but new the ice got bat , a it became necessary for each man to carry a long pole to hold him up if the ice fave way. a long rose, attacked to the head of the solugh &

dangerous and I wanted to test it with my axe till I found a safe place to take the dogs over. Jewett, intimated that a little thing like that wouldn't stop him, started across and nearly lost his life when their snow bridge broke away with him. If he had gone through, we would have had five feet of ice to chop through before we could reach him and then it would be practically impossible to locate him under the ice. Across the North Arm, from Matonabee Point to Gypsum Point is about 20 miles.

From the latter point we were to follow the West side of the Arm to Fort Rae, but very soon the ice got bad and it became necessary for each man to carry a long pole to hold him up if the ice gave way.

A long rope, attached to the head of the sleigh and

Called the head rope. trails out behind. I tried this rope Simily around my wrist a every time I broke though. the Jops youked me out again, but there was no sking left on my shins from scraping on the





arest for your a very a we surely

deserved it,



called the head rope, trails out behind. I tied this rope firmly around my wrist and every time I broke through the dogs yanked me out again, but there was no skin left on my shins from scraping on the ice.

Arrived at Fort Rae, we were glad of a rest for man and dogs and we surely deserved it.

Fact Ree, in those days, was a small, although important For Post. Wany Indians - mostly Log-Ribs" hunted the neighbouring territory and many valuable Petto were brought in



There were only too Treding Stores at that time and the respective traders had had a little trouble over the only available wongay in the place, with the result that, owing to the bitter feeling between they - prices of the soured sky high . White vaxes, for instances, were being lought in at 60 dollars (\$12) a feet _

their approximate value at that time, being somewhere around \$ 20 - (\$4).

Fort Rae, in those days, was a small, although important Fur Post. Many Indians, mostly "Dog-Ribs" hunted the neighbouring territory and many valuable pelts were brought in.

There were only two Trading Stores at that time and the respective Traders had had a little trouble over the only available woman in the place, with the result that, owing to the bitter feeling between them, prices of fur soared sky-high. White Foxes, for instances, were being bought in at 60 dollars (12) [12 pounds] a pelt, their approximate value at that time, being somewhere around \$12.00 (4) [4 pounds].

I met a Priest there - who although a really good yay, had sometime previously. fallen from the arms of grace into those of a squaw - (going a pretty as a matter of fact). Shelving his casrock, he spent a whole writer with her but was brought back to the fold in quick time and was still Doing penance when I met him. Posselly his short were of life in the row would make him more lement and understanding where the sins of others were concerned. Our stay at Fort Rae was curtailed owing to the difficulties we foresow in making the return Journey. The ice was in very bad condition and our only hope of getting back to Fort Revolution

I met a Priest there, who, although a really good man, had sometime previously fallen from the arms of grace into those of a squaw (young and pretty as a matter of fact). Shelving his cassock, he spent a whole winter with her but was brought back into the fold in quick time and was still doing penance when I met him. Possibly his short view of life in the raw would make him more lenient and understanding when the sins of others were concerned.

Our stay at Fort Rae was curtailed owing to the difficulties foresaw in making the return journey. The ice was in very bad condition and our only hope of getting back to Fort Resolution

without casualties, was to find some means of travel other than sleighs. So we bought a sheft (a small flat bottomed boat) and a Canoe. We fent steel runners under the skiff and hauled it with nine Dogs. We lashed the Canve onto a small sleigh and could handle it easily with two dogs. Hauling our Duttet the way prevented loss and damage to records of the trap, from being immersed in wanter. gypsum Point og Great bleve hake was our first objective and from these we had to cross the Leke - 66 miles - to Resolution. Half way to Gypsung Point, we present a place where 12 trains of Jogo (60 in all) and all Dog drivers and hossengers were precipitated

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"Gypsum Point" on Great Slave Lake was our first objective and from these we had to cross the Lake, 66 miles, to Resolution. Half way to Gypsum Point, we passed a place where 12 trains of dogs (60 in all) and all dog drivers and passengers, were precipitated

into the water at the same moment, by a hope stretch of ice given way. When we got these - the open water was again covered with a their coating of ice - but silk Rand Kerchiefs - Moose sking gloves - hats - Irowned dogs et etc, covered the surrounding ice. There were 23 Indians - male and female and two white people - all faint to a donce. all were saved encept two - the white people. W. Frank Campell, who was reduce in his sleigh, and his little doughter who was reding in his arms. they were still classed together when the bodies were located.

into the water at the same moment, by a huge stretch of ice giving way.

When we got there, the open water was again covered with a thin coating of ice, but silk handkerchiefs, mooseskin gloves, hats, drowned dogs etc etc. covered the surrounding ice.

There were 23 Indians, male and female and two white people, all going to a dance. All were saved except two, the white people, W. Frank Camsell, who was riding in his sleigh, and his little daughter who was riding in his arms.

They were still clasped together when the bodies were located.

The journey to Jyksung Point was fax from pleasant. The ice was bad - They and treacherous built its most unpleas out aspect lay in the fact that it was badly condled. that is partially thewed and composed of nothing but they needle like splenters which cut the dogs feet to pieces. We made shoes for they out of canvas, but I had to let them ride in the skiff. in turns - to ease their feet. It was terreble, forcing they to work her they were suffering. heaving Jupsung Point at Jayhreak, we travelled as fast as we could, intending to cross the ,66 miles, with only one night's

The journey to Gypsum Point was far from pleasant. The ice was bad, thin and treacherous but its most unpleasant aspect lay in the fact that it was badly "candled" that is, partially thawed and composed of nothing but thin needle like splinters which cut the dogs feet to pieces. We made shoes for them out of canvas, but I had to let them ride in the skiff, in turns, to ease their feet. It was terrible, forcing them to work when they were suffering. Leaving Gypsum Point at daybreak, we travelled [traveled] as fast as we could, intending to cross the Lake, 66 miles, with only one night's

camp on the ice. The ice was bad and every man was carrying a long trale to protect him if he broke through. One could drive the pole through the ice anywhere. It was nothing. there were many cracks in the ice but none large enough to bother us much. Our party was spread out in an attempt to find good ice, but the same reports come in from all sides - badly candled and quite nottery although still at least 2 fort 6 inches Roughly 25 miles had been covered in this yanner, in a direct line towards Resolution, when we came to a large stretch of open water.

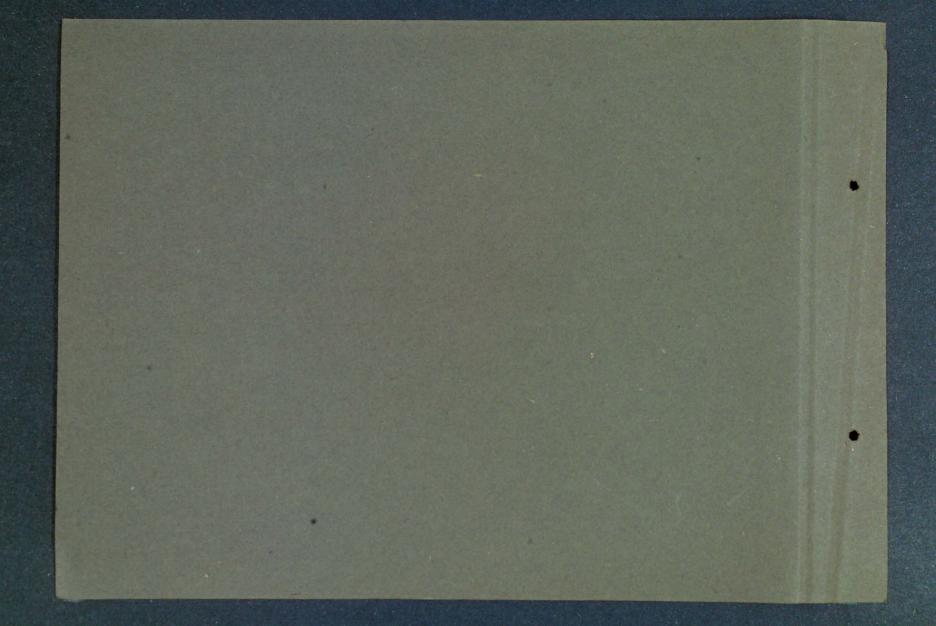
camp on the ice.

The ice was bad and every man was carrying a long pole to protect him if he broke through. One could drive the pole through the ice anywhere. It was rotten.

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Our party was spread out in an attempt to find good ice, but the same reports came in from all sides, badly candled and quite rotten although still at least 2 foot 6 inches thick.

Roughly 25 miles had been covered in this manner, a direct line towards Resolution, when we came to a large stretch of open water.



Page 5-22 Blank page naturally - we stopped for a consultation. To proceed further, it would be necessary to cross this wo you enpance of water, in the shift and cause, but embarking from ice and troembarking onto ice were defficielt operations, with the possibility of loss of instruments or records of the trip and even a chance of accident to personnel or Tewett and I volunteered to make a dash for it with the Canve - hauling it or carrying it across the ice of using it to cross the pateties of open water, which it seemed certain we would meet, in the renaining 40 and miles, But Iv. Russell refused to permit an undertaking which he considered too dangerous. Meanwhile, to the East of us, at or near

Naturally we stopped for a consultation. To proceed further, it would be necessary to cross this 100 yard expanse of water in the skiff and canoe, but embarking from ice and disembarking onto ice were difficult operations, with the possibility of loss of instruments or records of the trip and even a chance of accident to personnel or dogs.

Jewett and I volunteered to make a dash for it with the canoe and hauling it or carrying it across the ice and using it to cross the patches of open water, which it seemed certain we would meet, in the remaining 40 odd miles. But Mr. Russell refused to permit an undertaking which he considered too dangerous. Meanwhile, to the east of us, at or near

Wattonablee Point, which was at least 15 miles distant, we could see . Though the mediun of a mirage, what looked like huge blocks of ice being pushed up onto the We later, found out that the was achiefly happening, although we could never have seen it without the hurage. Since Jewett and I were not allowed to So on - I - at the enpense of my popularity insisted on turning back - as I felt sure something terrible was happening - something which I, as yet, couldn't understand. at last I prevailed over the others and we turned back to Typesung toint. The first few miles were not too had, but

Matonabee Point, which was at least 16 miles distant, we could see through the medium of a "Mirage", what looked like huge blocks of ice being pushed up onto the shore.

We, later, found out that this was actually happening, although we could never have seen it without the "Mirage."

Since Jewell and I were not allowed to go on, I, at the expense of my popularity insisted on turning back, as I felt sure something terrible was happening, something which I, as yet, couldn't understand.

At least I prevailed over the others and we turned back to Gypsum Point.

The first few miles were not too bad, but

Rooy it became almost impossible to proceed. What had been small cracks or our outward tourney, were now so large that we had to ferry ourselves across the water on ice floes and every minute conditions were getting come. We all got wet but moone achiefly fell through the ice. at leigth, after a gruelling day, we reached Hardesty Island - 9 miles from Jephsung Voint and decided to built in there for the night, as we were aut of wood for cooking. The last mile or so was a succession of ctacks - some large and some small. When about 50 yards from shore my leader Mervey, over anxious and, as usual, stubborn

Soon it became almost impossible to proceed. What had been small cracks on our outward journey, were now so large that we had to ferry ourselves across the water on ice floes and every minute conditions were getting worse. We all got wet but no one actually fell through the ice.

At length, after a grueling day, we reached Hardisty Island, 9 miles from Gypsum Point and decided to pull in there for the night, as we were out of wood for cooking. The last mile or so was a succession of cracks, some large and some small.

When about 50 yards from shore my leader Mervin, over anxious and, as usual stubborn

Reversed to the right - pulling the other Does after her. although I yelled at her to the" So to the left) she kept on over what I knew to be enceptionally their ice and, when she was only a few feet from shore, in we went, skift - Jugs. myself & all. Mervin got on shere a had good footing but could not Bull everything by hereilf. Stell she held on bravely and I managed to work myself along - head over hand along the dogs traces, until I got a footing, when I was able to give enough assistance to get the skiff in to shore. Once the dops had good footing. They hulled it up to a compine place. Fire was made as soon as possible and although we all had a cut of hot ten, nobody vested

swerved to the right, pulling the other dogs after her. Although I yelled at her to "Cha" (go to the left) she kept on over what I knew to be exceptionally thin ice and, when she was only a few feet from shore, in we went, skiff, dogs, myself and all. "Mervin" got on shore and had good footing but could not pull everything by herself. Still she held on bravely and I managed to work myself, hand over hand, along the dogs traces, until I got a footing, when I was able to give enough assistance to get the skiff in to shore. Once the dogs had good footing, they pulled it up to a camping place.

Fire was made as soon as possible and although we all had a cup of hot tea, nobody wasted

time eating. We were all too tired and just rolled into bed. Mext morning when we looked out over the Lake, there were two miles of open water instead of the we an which we had been bravelling. Whilst we had been on it - the ice had been breaking up and we were indeed lucky to reach the Island in safety. But our plight was now serious. We couldn't leave the Island as the moving we would and cetter of our frail craft, and we were very nearly out if grate. he assistance could possibly reach us until the Rake cleared of ice. We had just enough (rotter) fish left for one feel for the does and - as for as we

time eating. We were all to tired and just rolled into bed.

Next morning, when we looked out over the lake, there were two miles of open water instead of the ice on which we had been travelling [traveling].

Whilst we had been on it, the ice had been breaking up and we were indeed lucky to reach the island in safety.

But our plight was now serious. We couldn't leave the island as the moving ice would crush either of our frail craft, and we were very nearly out of grub. No assistance could possibly reach us until the lake cleared of ice. We had just enough (rotten) fish left for one feed for the dogs and, as far as we

could see - There was nothing on the Island. Unyway - as we were certain to be there for some considerable time, we first of all, fixed our camp and nade it ready for a protracted Then we took stock of our grub, which consisted of a few dried beens - a lettet rice - a small quantity of described potatoes (dried potatoes) and half a try of land and a few other odds and ends - beckely we had plenty of tea, sugar and traved milk enough for nearly a month. Strict rationing was necessary and, as our Cook was inclined to be wasteful - I was afformled to that position at a salary increase of \$ 1. (4/-) a day (which I never received) Naturally, the first thing I did was to take my

could see, there was nothing on the island. Anyway, as we were certain to be there for some considerable time, we first of all, fixed our camp and made it ready for a protracted stay.

Then we took stock of our grub which consisted of a few dried beans, a little rice, a small quantity of dessicated [desiccated] potatoes (dried potatoes), half a tin of lard and a few other odds and ends. Luckily we had plenty of tea, sugar and tinned milk, enough for nearly a month. Strict rationing was necessary and, as our Cook was inclined to be wasteful, I was appointed to that position at a salary increase of \$1.00 (4/-) a day (which I never received)

Naturally, the first thing I did was to take my

rifle and emplore the Island. It was pittably small but furnished a little grub. By that first trip I got one ralbet - as far as I know the only one on the Island . but I also formed a few sea gullo nesto with eggs. in them. Heat was a thelling discovery until we down out that the majority of them were partially hatched. But an egg must be good or it wouldn't batch and a few blood streets were hardly noticeable when ecrambled. a toon was our next bag. a hoon is a large water bird which lives on fish & tastes like them - after they have gone rottey. I booked the first one for about 4 or 5 hours and dished how up. He looked most affectising, but

rifle and explore the island. It was pitiably small but furnished a little grub.

On that first trip I got one rabbit, as far as I know, the only one on the island, but I also found a few seagulls nests with eggs in them. That was a thrilling discovery until we found out that the majority of them were partially hatched. But an egg must be good or it wouldn't hatch and a few blood streaks were hardly noticeable when scrambled.

A loon was our next bag. A loon is a large water bird which lives on fish and tastes like them, after they have gone rotten. I boiled the first one for almost 4 or 5 hours and dished him up. He looked most appetizing, [appetizing] but

he certainly Casted Different. To add to the tay of that meal - one might as well have tried to chow shoe leather. But we were hungry and short of grub. huckely - when I took over the job of cooking -I emphasized the fast that if anyone was dissatisfied with my efforts he could do the Joh hemself, so noone dared to complain. Cenyway - having had one lessoy when we bagget our second, and last, Loon, I boiled King for two days. He tested just the same & was just as tough as the first. Meanwhile we had got some very large Tike -Jackfish as we called them. Great bordeaux tormed are ice locked hool, from which these

he certainly tasted different. To add to the joy of that meal, one might as well have tried to chew shoe leather. But we were hungry and short of grub.

Luckily, when I took over the job of cooking, I emphasized the fact that if anyone was dissatisfied with my efforts, he could do the job himself, so no one dared to complain.

Anyway, having had one lesson, when we bagged our second, and last, loon, I boiled him for two days. He tasted just the same and was just as tough as the first.

Meanwhile we had got some very large Pike, Jackfish, as we called them. Great "bourdeaux", chunks of ice, had been blown ashore, and had formed an ice locked pool, from which these

fish could not return to the Lake. We had no hooks or fishing line but we had plenty of wire for smaring rabbets, so we made wire nooses - fixed them on the end of long poles, and snared the fish. I also shot a few of theny. amongst other theys - we dreg out a day of toxes. There were three young ones which we work with us and raised. When we trok them - I am sorry to say - we had planned a defferent future for them - in case of emergency. But buckily - the emergency never Sea gulls were plentiful and we ate many of them. They were better then the hoors, but still.

fish could not return to the lake. We had no hooks or fishing line but we had plenty of wire for snaring rabbits, so we made wire nooses, fixed them on the ends of long poles, and snared the fish. I also shot a few of them. Amongst other things, we dug out a den of foxes. There were three young ones which we took with us and raised. When we took them, I am sorry to say, we had planned a different future for them, in case of emergency.

But luckily, the emergency never arose.

Seagulls were plentiful and we ate many of them. They were better than the loons, but still

decidedly fishy. The poor Jogo suffered most. We gave them all we possibly could, but D'y afraid they went hungry most of the time. One day - after we had been on the Island nearly three weeks - a strong wind got up and eventually blew the ice further down the Lake leaving a clear possage between us and the Mainland. hr. Russell and Charlie he Donald leaded to try the crossing. It was decidedly dangerous as there was still plenty of ice, but they managed it . and . late that night - returned with some grub which they had procured at a Trapper's Cating. There was very little for us, but they brought

decidedly "fishy."

The poor dogs suffered most. We gave them all we possibly could, but I'm afraid they went hungry most of the time.

One day, after we had been on the island nearly three weeks, a strong wind got up and eventually blew the ice further down the lake, leaving a clear passage between us and the Mainland. Mr. Russell and Charlie McDonald decided to try the crossing.

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a good supply of dog feed. Heat day we all crossed over. Our complete autitet and everyone - encept Charlie In Donald and I - went in the skiff. they also took two does. Charlie & I had to bring the remaining 9 does in the Cause. Sleigh dags are used to Canseing and remain lying down whilst travelling in this way, but, or this occasion, waves were breaking over the Cause I when ever a dop got wet. he would retain up I shake himself. as we were overloaded a having a hard time to fight wind and sees, all we could do was to rep them with our paddles & yell at them to be doing which they always In.

a good supply of dog feed.

Next day we all crossed over.

Our complete outfit and everyone except Charlie McDonald and I, went in the skiff.

They also took two dogs.

Charlie and I had to bring the remaining and dogs in the canoe.

Sleigh dogs are used to canoeing and remain lying down whilst travelling [traveling] in this way, but, on this occasion, waves were breaking over the canoe and whenever a dog got wet, he would stand up and shake himself. As we were overloaded and having a hard time to fight wind and seas, all we could do was to rap them with our paddles and yell at them to lie down, which they always did.

But, over and over again, we nearly whiet. auce on shore, conditions became better. les a small boy, I had been taught by a Fisherman, to make hammocks. Remembereys that leaching and having lots of gelling were, which we always carry when an the hail - I made a fish net. Fish were plentiful a from then until we were rescued, a week later, we had boiled fish three times a day . he bread, no greeze, land or butter, no jany, meat or anythens else, not every sugar or milk for our tea - no salt - just loiled fresh, that at last, whelsto we were having our boiled fish breakfast - we heard a rifle shot, and

But, over and over again, we nearly upset. Once on shore, conditions became better. As a small boy, I had been taught by a Fisherman, to make hammocks. Remembering that teaching and having lots of gilling twine, which we always carry when on the trail, I made a fish net. Fish were plentiful and from then until we were rescued, a week later, we had boiled fish three times a day. No bread, no grease, lard or butter, no jam, meat or anything else, not even sugar or milk for our tea, no salt, just boiled fish, but lots of it.

At last, whilst we were having our boiled fish breakfast, we heard a rifle shot, and

knew that someone had come to reserve us. . It was Mr. Blanchet - a Surveyor from attour who was to lead a further enfection through the Barrey hands. During the Summer. On arriving at Fort Resolution and finding no trace of us . he knew something must have some wrong. His Schooner was there in readiness for the Summer trep and, every though there was still a lot of ice on the Lake . he made the trip across to a spot where he thought we might be. His guess was correct. hosing no time in getting aboard - we started back to Keroletwy. Low large Canoes were lashed on Deck and our 11 dops were tred to themy.

knew that someone had come to rescue us.

It was Mr. Blanchet, a Surveyor from Ottawa who was to lead a further expedition through the Barren Lands, during the summer.

On arriving at Fort Resolution and finding no trace of us, he knew something must have gone wrong. His schooner was there in readiness for the summer trip and, even though there was still a lot of ice on the lake, he made the trip across to a spot where he thought we might be. His guess was correct.

Leaving no time in getting aboard, we started back to Resolution.

Two large canoes we lashed on deck and our 11 dogs were tied to them.

I was steering, and my only assistance in Suding the correct way to so was watching the flight of some seaguels. an Island called Egg Island, lay on our Port bow and the Jullo kept flying out and back. So long as I watched them I could. grees at the derection, but The Island could not be seen. hr! Blanchet came up og deck now and there - look a compass reading and checked my course, but notary stayed on deck as there was a heavy mist felling and the day was quite cold. On one occasion he was just looking at his compass, when he slepped. Posselly only

I was steering, and my only assistance in finding the correct way to go was watching the flight of some seagulls.

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Mr. Blanchet came up on deck now and then, took a compass reading and checked my course, but nobody stayed on deck as there was a heavy mist falling and the day was quite cold.

On one occasion he was just looking at his compass, when he slipped. Possibly oily

boots a a vet deck were responsible, but anyway he went overboard. He was dressed in ail skins a high rubber boots, a bat rigaret for swemming. The minute I saw hisy going - I shouted Wan Overboard" - sheet off the engine - grabbed an axe and began to ent. loose a lance. m. Russel. was busy untying dogs of we eventually got the Cause into the water with only one Dog stell attacked. there back to m. Blanchet as fast as posseble. He was going down for the third time, when we reached hun, was actually under water as far as I remember - so I remined my paddle into his chest, waking him up so

boots and a wet deck were responsible, but anyway he went overboard.

He was dressed in oil skins and high rubber boots, a bad rig-out for swimming. The minute I saw him going, I shouted "Man Overboard", shut off the engine, grabbed an axe and began to cut loose a canoe. Mr. Russel [Russell] was busy untying dogs and we eventually got the canoe into the water with only one dog still attached.

Then back to Mr. Blanchet as fast as possible. He was going down for the third time, when we reached him, was actually under water as far as I remember, so I rammed my paddle into his chest, waking him up so

that he grabbed it. We couldn't posselly get hun into the Canoe so we held him alongside till we reached the Schooner, when the boys pulled him about & pumped water out of him. Ro soon as he was conscious enough, he called for his black bas & took out a full bottle of brandy. Meedless to say, W. Russel and I stepped a lettle closer, as brondy is scarce in that Country, but, as svoy as he had housed out a good setiff today for himself - he replaced the bottle in the bag with no sign of a Have one ". as a matter of fact, his Blanchet proces

that he grabbed it.

We couldn't possibly get him into the canoe so we held him alongside till we reached the schooner, where the boys pulled him aboard and pumped water out of him.

As soon as he was conscious enough, he called for his black bag and took out a full bottle of brandy.

Needless to say, Mr. Russel [Russell] and I stepped a little closer, as brandy is scarce in that country, but, as soon as he had poured out a good stiff toddy for himself, he replaced the bottle in the bag with no sign of "Have one".

As a matter of fact, Mr. Blanchet proved

himself to be a very remarkable man, on that " occasion. Whilst in the water, he , frist of all, figured out how long he could stay afbet in that ice cold water - with oil skins and rubber boots draffing him down. He there watched Mr. Russell and D. shepping the Cause and told us afterwards exactly where we gained a few seconds & where we lost time. His mind was quite clear till the very lest The remainder of our trep was uneventful but we were all glad to get to Resolution have a few good feets and forget the rough life of the last six weeks

himself to be a very remarkable man, on that occasion. Whilst in the water, he, first of all, figured out how long he could stay afloat in that ice cold water, with oil skins and rubber boots dragging him down.

He then watched Mr. Russell and I shipping the canoe and told us afterwards exactly where we gained a few seconds and where we lost time.

His mind was quite clear till the very last moment.

The remainder of our trip was uneventful but we were all glad to get to Resolution, have a few good feeds and forget the rough life of the last six weeks.

Preparations were room completed for our summer trip. greek - Survey instrumento - refleo - ammunetion a big 24 foot freight Canal and two sexteen footers et at were all taken about the Schooner. Our original party had been augmented by a droughterry whose duty it was to plot the survey as it was done. When all was ready - we pulled out on the 200 nice truly to the East End of great slave take, where there had been are Outfort of the Hudsons Bay Company - new only a runy. It was our ain to map the shore tene of a chain of Lakes, which may in a crescent shape, away out noto the Barrey Lands. From great slave hake everything had to be "portageth" across to certillary hake - a distance of 11 miles but necessetating the crossing of five small lakes and, of course a portage between each, where

Preparations were soon completed for our summer trip. Grub, survey instruments, rifles, ammunition, a big 24 foot freight canoe and two "sixteen-footers" etc etc. were all taken aboard the schooner.

Our original party had been augmented by a draughtsman whose duty it was to plot the survey as it was done. When all was ready, we pulled out on the 200 mile trip to the East End of Great Slave Lake, where there had been an Outpost of the Hudson's Bay Company now only a ruin.

It was our aim to map the shore line of a chain of Lakes, which ran in a crescent shape, away out into the Barren Lands.

From Great Slave Lake, everything had to be taken across to Artillery Lake, a distance of 11 miles, but necessitating the crossing of five small lakes and, of course, a "portage" between each, where

everything had to be carried on our backs, including as there is no wood - absolutely no wood at all, in the Bourey Lands - we had with us remall collapsible portable stoves for cooking, but they used gasoline and a case of that weighing 60 pounds, was a most awkward pack the corners of the cases were sharp and the Equid in the time surshed back and South. ar horuble load. anyway we reached artilley Lake without Camped at the West end of this Rake, were two Sweedish trappers who insisted that we would all come ashore and see their garden . Emperating

everything had to be carried on our backs, including the canoes.

As there is no wood, absolutely no wood at all, in the Barren Lands, we had with us a small collapsible portable stoves for cooking, but they used gasoline and a case of that, weighing 60 pounds, was a most awkward pack. The corners of the cases were sharp and the liquid in the tins swished back and forth.

One horrible load.

Anyway we reached Artillery Lake without incident.

Camped at the West end of this Lake, were two Swedish trappers who insisted that we would all come ashore and see their garden. Expecting

masses of flowers and every kind of vegetable, we were somewhat non plussed when we saw a small bed of carroto and one lone radial. But, of course, we complemented the Sweedes or their noble effort. a short way East of this Calin we passed a clump of five or six strented pine hees which own the distinction of being named on map as ". The Last Trees" and they are the last for a long way. They were the last we sent for six weeks - not only the last trees but the last wood of any kind and from then, till our retury, saw withing but a rolling rock Country covered with Carabon

masses of flowers and every kind of vegetable, we were somewhat nonplussed when we saw a small bed of carrots and one lone radish. But, of course, we complimented the Swedes on their noble effort.

A short way East of this cabin, we passed a clump of five or six stunted pine trees which own the distinction of being named on the map as "The Last Trees" and they are the last for a long way. They were the last we saw for six weeks, not only the last trees but the last wood of any kind and from then, till our return, saw nothing but a rolling rock Country covered with Caribou moss.

Og the same day that we passed the last wood, July 18. (and my berthoop) we had to chop through ice 2 feet thick to make a passage for the Canves. If course the ice was rolley and , as a matter of fact, we saw no more of it on the From artillery Lake we followed a small river ento Lake Clintoy. Cololey. as there were bed rapids of this short river, we had to make several portages, and it was where we were on one of these that we saw our first Caribon and too enorm ones Wolves - white Barrey hand Oz one occasion, owing to the take being rough, we were camped on shore, when we suddenly noticed a

On the same day that we passed "The Last Woods," July 18th (and my birthday) we had to chop through ice 2 feet thick to make a passage for the canoes. Of course the ice was rotten and, as a matter of fact, we saw no more of it on the trip.

From Artillery Lake we followed a small river into Lake Clinton-Colden. As there were bad rapids on this short river, we had to make several "portages", and it was where we were on one of these that we saw our first caribou and two enormous wolves, white Barren Land wolves.

On one occasion, owing to the Lake being rough, we were camped on shore, when we suddenly noticed a

Carebon swimming towards us. Charlie In Donald raid be would ride it if I could eath it. do, taking a long line which we used for tracking the Carnoes upstreamy - Jewett, In Sonald &) Caunched a Canoe of took after the Carebou. He did not seem to mind us and hardly every changed his derectory, so we had no difficulty in coming up behind king. I musted with my first throw a rocking Canse not being the easiest blace to rope from, but I got hery with the second bry. a Caribon, besides the wide and high horns of each side - has a spade - a seviated herry about five inches in with which runs, are front of his face from skull to

caribou swimming towards us. Charlie McDonald said he would ride it if I could catch it. So, taking a long line which we used for "tracking" the canoes upstream, Jewett, McDonald and I launched a canoe and took after the caribou. He did not seem to mind us and hardly even changed his direction, so we had no difficulty in coming up behind him.

I missed with my first throw, a rocking canoe not being the easiest place to rope from, but I got him with the second try. A caribou, besides the wide and high horns on each side, has a spade, a serrated horn about five inches in width which runs in front of his face from skull to

Instead of the rope going over his horns, it got over this spale" and around his muggle. He swam like mad - pulling us without any apparent entra effort. Cerrived on shore, he began to fight the rope, which naturally sot slack as we came we & eventually he faced us, when the rope fell off. If I had caught king by the horns or around the neck, we would have had are central fight to subdue him, but I am quite sure Charlie would have tried to rule It was at the East end of Clinton . Colden that

nose.

Instead of the rope going over his horns, it got over this "spade" and around his muzzle. He swam like mad, pulling us without any apparent extra effort.

Arrived on shore, he began to fight the rope which naturally got slack as we came in and eventually he faced us, when the rope fell off.

If I had caught him by the horns or around the neck, we would have had an awful fight to subdue him, but I am quite sure Charlie would have tried to ride him.

It was at the East end of Clinton-Colden that

I saw my first muck Ox - a queer looking animal, churkily built, about so tall so a well grown calf and covered with toug hair. · They are very rare now, having been kulled un thousands by Esquiny aux and Ludrous. they were hunted with dogs and when hard pressed, would form a square, bulls and court on the autoide, calves behind there. The whole trand could then be slaughtered. So we journeyed on following ayliner take to hake War Kay, but by there it was getting no late in the year that it was necessary to begin the return sommey, roughly severy or eight hundred miles - to Fart Smith and there another thousand miles by steamer and train to Edmonton and Civilisation.

I saw my first musk-ox, a queer looking animal, chunkily built, about as tall as a well grown calf and covered with long hair. They are very rare now, having been killed in thousands by Esquimaux and Indians.

They were hunted with dogs and when hard pressed, would form a square, bulls and cows on the outside, calves behind them. The whole band could then be slaughtered.

So we journeyed on, following Aylmer Lake to Lake MacKay, but by then it was necessary to begin the return journey, roughly seven or eight hundred miles, to Fort Smith and then another thousand miles by steamer and train to Edmonton and Civilisation [Civilization]