

“The station at Nachvak Bay could easily be disposed of, as the Newfoundland fishermen already visit the place for the cod fishing, and if it were advertised in the St. John’s (Newfoundland) papers, I do not doubt that the Department would get offers for the purchase of the house.

“The Expedition for next year should be ready to start from Halifax about the 15th of May—not later than this date—and arriving off Hudson Strait about the 1st of June, if possible, visit and relieve the stations. Should the ice prevent our getting on shore, the ship should push on so as to investigate once for all the condition of the ice in the Strait and Bay in the early part of the season. If successful in getting through the Strait, the voyage should be continued to Fort Churchill, the endeavour being made to arrive there about the opening of navigation, the 15th of June.

“After leaving Churchill, the eastern shores of the Bay should be visited, and a running survey made of such portions of the coast as are practicable. Beacons should be erected on the north end of Mansfield Island, and the south end of Southampton Island. Both these islands are low-lying, with shoal water running for some distance out. They are of a dark grey limestone formation, and most difficult to make out at night, the mariner’s only safety being the constant use of the lead. Especially are they dangerous on account of the tides, which run along the east coast of Mansfield Island at the rate of about four knots per hour.

“This work could, I think, be accomplished and the ship be back in the Strait by the 15th of August. The remainder of the time should be devoted to making a running survey of such part of the coast of the Strait as may be possible. Capt. Spicer’s station should be called at, and if time permitted, the Hudson’s Bay post at Ungava should also be visited, the Expedition returning to Canada in October.

“If, however, the Government regard it more important to investigate the fisheries of the Bay and Strait, the ship should push north for Marble Island as soon as possible, thence to ‘The Rowe’s Welcome.’ After spending a short time in ‘The Welcome,’ the porpoise fishery at Churchill should be examined