

some conservatism that articles could easily pass from ocean to ocean in five years.

It is probable that the trade route in question forked at Albert Edward bay—the fork still in active use has already been described (that leading south to the Akililik). Well known archaeological facts¹ indicate that another fork extended north-east across Prince of Wales island and North Devon towards Smith bay. This is made to seem likely by a glance at the chart, and is further confirmed by the statements made to me, of the Kañhiyūārmīūt, who say that the Ekallūktōgmīūt of Albert Edward bay have told them of the Turnunirohirmīūt, “whom they must have seen, for they tell long stories about them.” According to Boas, the Tununirusirmīūt (a dialectic variant of the same name evidently) visit North Devon and go “farther to the west.” This may anciently have been an important trade route, though now fallen much into disuse.

There is at present an overland trade route from the Akililik to Umiñmūktok on Bathurst inlet, but it is not clear that it is an ancient one. It is the easterners who come northwest—chiefly the Back River inlanders, but also members of other tribes. My information leads me to think they came first some six or eight years ago (probably as a consequence of Hanbury's journey). They bring chiefly iron ware. Some guns have through their agency even reached Bathurst inlet. In 1911 there were no guns among any of the five Victoria Island tribes visited by us, and no member of four tribes visited had ever heard a gun fired.

Artifacts are now and then discovered on the Atlantic side of the Eskimo country that are almost or quite identical with others known from Alaska. This is considered by many ethnologists as evidence of the extraordinary conservatism of the Eskimo. The inference is that although these tribes are distant both in time and space from the land of their common origin, they still—though a continent separates them—adhere steadfastly to even the minutest and least essential details of construction employed by their forefathers when all dwelt together

¹ F. Boas, Bulletin, American Museum of Natural History, vol. XV, 1907, pp. 463-4.