

**REPORT OF J. W. TYRRELL, D.L.S., EXPLORATORY SURVEY BETWEEN
GREAT SLAVE LAKE AND HUDSON BAY, DISTRICTS OF MACKENZIE
AND KEEWATIN.**

E. DENTON, Esq.,
Surveyor General,
Department of Interior,
Ottawa, Canada.

HAMILTON, ONT., August 30, 1901.

SIR,—Herewith I have the honour to submit the report of my exploratory survey of 1900, extending from Great Slave lake to Hudson bay, in the districts of Mackenzie and Keewatin.

INTRODUCTORY.

In accordance with your instructions, dated January 20, 1900, I have made an exploration of the country between Great Slave lake and Hudson bay, in the districts of Mackenzie and Keewatin, and have now prepared a large map, comprising twenty-two sheets, 32 x 40 inches, on a scale of one inch to one statute mile, of the routes covered by our expedition.

In all seventeen hundred and twenty-nine miles of survey were accomplished, and in the performance of this, four thousand six hundred miles were travelled with sleds and canoes.

Two hundred photographs (5 x 7) were obtained along our route.

A large number of astronomical and magnetic observations were obtained. A complete meteorological record was kept throughout the journey. As complete a botanical collection as could be made in the barren grounds was obtained, and as far as possible notes were kept and specimens procured of the rock formations and minerals met with at various points. If indeed any part of your instructions has not been fully carried out, it has only been because of my inability to do more within the time devoted to the work, but I trust that my efforts may meet with your approval.

HISTORICAL.

Before proceeding with the report of my own discoveries, I think it will be well to present a brief collection of such scattered fragments of information as have been available to me from the publications of earlier explorers, regarding the district of which information is required.

Several explorers have from time to time touched upon the area in question, and each one has contributed more or less of interest and value.

Some accounts are of interest because of their absurd inaccuracies, some because of their close approximation to what turns out to be fact, and others for various reasons of their own.

DISCOVERY OF CHESTERFIELD INLET.

The earliest discovery of any part of our route seems to have been that of Chesterfield inlet, in the year 1747, by the officers of the *Dobbs* and *California*—two ships of 180 and 140 tons respectively, sent out from England in 1746 by the North-west Association for the discovery of the north-west passage. The officers reported 'that they