

and other valuable fish of superior quality, where great industries might be established. Cod, herring, and other edible fish are also to be had in Hudson's Bay. The country round Hudson's Bay is now the largest and best fur producing region in the Dominion, and abounds in game. Wild fowl of all sorts, reindeer or cariboo, &c., exist in such profusion as seems inexhaustible. The coast generally, particularly the east coast, possesses nearly all known economic minerals, many of them in apparently unlimited quantity, rendering this one of the greatest mineral regions in the world. The eastern coast of James' Bay possesses some valuable minerals, particularly iron, in great variety and abundance; gypsum, about Moose River, in any quantity, lignite coal, and vast quantities of good merchantable timber, such as spruce, white and red pine, etc., etc.

From what I have observed of the movements of ice in Hudson's Bay during the summers I passed there, I am perfectly assured that an ordinary iron screw steamer would never have any difficulty in getting through or round that which is usually met with in the Bay and Straits. The chief reason why the old sailing vessels of the Hudson's Bay Company often met with detention in the ice was and is that at the season when floe ice is met with there is generally very little wind, and sailing vessels are consequently as helpless amongst the ice as they would be in a dead calm in the centre of the Atlantic or elsewhere. Hudson's Bay has always been found of easy access to a good and careful navigator. The ice formed in Hudson's and James' Bays during each winter is only about the shores very variable as to extent, and so inconsiderable in quantity as to be almost lost in the great area of the Bays. I think it improbable that any of this ice finds its way to the Straits, getting broken up or dispersed by the action of the tide or wind in the vicinity of the islands, shoals or shores where it formed. The drift ice met with in Hudson's Straits comes from Fox Channel and other inlets of the northern shore of the Bay, and would be of little inconvenience to a steamer that hugged the northern coast of the Straits and Bay, as the bulk of the ice in question is impelled by the wind and current to the south shores of the Straits and some directly into Ungava Bay. From what is now known, and the experience already obtained on the subject, there is every reason to believe that were Hudson's Bay thoroughly surveyed, it would be found to be one of the safest of known seas. I have no doubt that if the present enquiry as to the navigability of Hudson's Straits and Bay and its resources is properly conducted and published, that the result will be of inestimable benefit to the Dominion generally, and prove the practicability of the one thing needful to the profitable existence, and to the complete developments of the resources of Manitoba and the North-West—a Hudson's Bay Route. In giving this opinion I quote not only my own experience, but the opinion of others who are similarly acquainted with that country. Have known season's when harbors were accessible for