

on James Bay, the resources of all that basin must remain dormant and of little value to any one.

The only access at present (if I except the voyageur's canoe) is *via* Hudson Straits and from all we can learn from Lieutenant Gordon's reports made for the Dominion Government and from the records of the Hudson Bay Company and inquiry among its officers, &c., those straits are only navigable about three months of the year and if we take into account the various obstacles and dangers to which the navigation of that far northern region is exposed we may conclude that the navigation of Hudson straits is commercially impracticable at any season.

We must not infer from this, however, that that great northern slope of our province is valueless. On the contrary, viewed from another and a more practical standpoint, the objections above mentioned should be the stepping stones whereby those northern wild lands may be more advantageously developed by us as will be better explained further on.

SURVEY

In accordance with my instructions from the Department of Colonization and Mines, I have surveyed and taken the levels of the Great Nottaway river from its source to its mouth; and on the Rupert river from lake Nemiskow to tide water; but on the Little Nottaway I only measured the portion of it traversed by us on our canoe route from Waswanipy to Rupert House and at its mouth, from Middleboro Island up to the first rapids at the point marked A on the accompanying plan.

The party I left at Rupert Bay during the winter of 1897-8, surveyed the river some ten or twelve miles farther up, but they did not take any levels.

However, from what I have seen of the river I believe that a good water power can be had close to tide-water, which is exceptional around James Bay.

On the Rupert river there is no chance of a water power below Smoky Hill portage which is twelve miles from its mouth at Rupert House.

There is a small rapid near the Hudson Bay Co's post at Rupert House which is more or less eliminated at high tide, and thence up to Smoky Hill it is all smooth running water.