

there, who themselves came from the west coast along the Arctic or oftener by the Colville route.

There is no information available as to the rapidity of trade movement between the western edge of the Mackenzie delta and Baillie island (Cape Bathurst), for the people of these places almost formed one community, visiting backwards and forwards, and there were no set trade expeditions. It is, however, only conservative to say that the winter from October to March would easily give an article time to get as far east as Cape Parry, from where journeys are said never to have been made to Nelson head except late in March or early in April. If our hypothetical knife had been on its journey 200 years ago, it would no doubt have found then, as we would find now, that well into April the Prince Albert Sound people of Victoria island are at Nelson head hunting bears. They soon start east, however, for they do not spend their summers in Banks island. By the middle of May the entire tribe nears the head of Prince Albert sound and here a few sleds, bent on trade to the eastward, hurry ahead. They ascend the Kagloryuak, descend the Ekallūktōk, and meet the Ekallūktōgmūt on Albert Edward bay. A few sleds of this tribe join them and all proceed south to the Asiāgmūt, whom they find near Ogden bay. A portion of this tribe also is going south to the Akilīnik river, and representatives of the three tribes join forces. They cannot go far by sled, for summer overtakes them, but loading their dogs and themselves with backloads they "pack" south until they reach Back river, where they find people of that locality with whom they trade and who ferry them in their kayaks across the river. Resuming their "packing" they proceed to the Akilīnik above Schulze lake, reaching it in mid-summer, two years from the time our knife was traded for on the west coast of Alaska. On the Akilīnik are Hudson Bay Eskimo, or at least Eskimo from near Hudson bay, come to get wood and to trade with the westerner. Sometime during the coming winter our knife, if bought by them, might reach salt water. We can say then that the minimum time in which an article by this route could pass from western Alaska to Hudson bay is about two and one-half years. Possibly so rapid a transfer never took place, but we may double the minimum and say with