

Manitoba Historical and Scientific Society, Winnipeg.

*The Arctic Regions and Hudson's Bay Route.*

REPORT OF A LECTURE BY DR. JOHN RAE.

Dr. John Rae, the celebrated Arctic explorer, lectured on Saturday evening to a large audience, in Wesley hall, for the benefit of the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba.

The chair was taken by the President of the Society, Mr. Alexander McArthur, who, in introducing the lecturer, announced that he had very kindly allowed the proceeds of the lecture to go to the funds of the Society, and that it was intended to devote them to the formation of a nucleus of a library of Arctic travels and research, under the care of the Society.

Dr. Rae prefaced his lecture with the observation that having passed the last week in travelling and consequently had not had time to look up the subject, and as he had no notes, he therefore craved the indulgence of his audience. The subject of Arctic exploration, he said was a very large one, and he might go over the discoveries and researches of other people; but he rather thought that his hearers would like to have some of his own experience, (applause) not that he regarded his own as of greater importance than those of others, but because it was always pleasanter to hear a man speak of what he had done himself, as he could speak with confidence of it. His first object in going to the Arctic regions was to trace out a large bay (northwest of Hudson's Bay) which he pointed out on a map kindly furnished for the occasion by Mr. R. D. Richardson. The bay was upwards of seven hundred miles around, and three or four Government expeditions, commanded by some of the most experienced Arctic navigators of England had attempted the survey of the coast. Parry, Sir George Back, Capt. Lyons, and Sir John Ross had attempted to push through, but failed. The lecturer showed the points reached by these, also a gap which had still been left unsurveyed. In 1845, the Government having given up the search, after a cost to the country of £70,000 or £80,000, Sir George Simpson, Governor of the H. B. Company, asked the lecturer to undertake it, and for the purpose offered him a nice little schooner; but, as ships had hitherto failed, he had preferred to take two small boats and three or four months' provisions. He found difficulty in getting men on account of the small stock of provisions and the prevalent idea that fuel should be carried along. Nearly all of his men were engaged at Winnipeg, (Fort Garry) and consisted of Scotchmen, Orcadians, one or two pure Indians and some splendid half-breeds. Hector Mckenzie, who was still in the settlement, accompanied him on one of his voyages. A better set of men never