

ceived were stone lamps and stone pots. They bought some copper too, but (within the last century or two at least) not much, for they were supplied from the west with Siberian metals.

The preceding sketch has been made briefer than even the fewness of facts at the writer's command makes imperative; in dealing with the tribes from Banks island to Back river an attempt will be made at greater thoroughness, not so much because the information is more abundant as because this district, as Boas has somewhere said, "is virtually unknown."

The tribes with which it is desired to deal more fully are by Boas, the foremost of living students of the Eskimo, apparently excluded from the "Central Eskimo" group. In a work which is fortunately at hand for definite citation, he says: "The last tribe of the Central Eskimo, the Utkusiksalmiut, inhabit the estuary of Back river" (*The Central Eskimo*, Sixth Annual Report, Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, 1888). A century ago, while brisk intercourse was yet maintained, some cultural or other ground might possibly have been found for including them with their western neighbours among the Mackenzie River Eskimo, but the day for that is past. No geographic term descriptive of the district exists without being either too comprehensive (as "Arctic Coast Eskimo," cf. Hanbury), or not comprehensive enough and therefore misleading (as "Coronation Gulf Eskimo" or "Parry Island Eskimo"). Tentatively we shall in the present discussion give them a title from the chief commercial resource of their country—copper. Banks island and Back river may not define absolutely the area within which the production of implements of native copper had a decided influence on the culture of the people; on the other hand, future research may show that they do. Meantime, for our convenience in the present paper, we will refer to the below-mentioned tribes collectively as the *Copper Eskimo*. In the list, the winter residence of the tribe will be given first, and then the summer residence. Tribes visited on their own hunting grounds are designated by (1), those members which have been interviewed away from home are marked (2). The rest are known to us only through the accounts of members of other tribes.