

quan. The lessee placed nets of similar meshes in the river during the season of 1866, and Commander Fortin reprimanded him for violating the law. However, it appeared in this instance that there was not only a determination to evade it in making nets to suit his purpose, but in audaciously placing them in positions to entrap every fish passing upwards. The Government should not renew leases of rivers to persons who have no regard for law. Such greedy propensity for filling barrels in this manner ought to be prevented. Sufficient respectable residents can be found on the coast, who are anxious to procure rivers, and fish them legitimately. A certain space of the river should be continually left open during the six days of the week, for the passage of salmon, and the present law compels the lessee to raise his nets, provided the weather is favorable to reach them, from sunset on Saturday till sunrise on Monday. Although this has been attended to in the places where I visited, it does not meet with approval, for it is said by the people that more salmon pass up the rivers on Sundays than any other day of the week. I will not vouch for the truth of this strange statement, but it cannot be denied that a universal feeling exists against this portion of the law. The salmon fishers of Labrador heartily proclaim against the present stake-net system, and are very anxious to return to the old mode of taking fish. They mention, for instance, the Etamaneau river, which has always been fished profitably by river nets instead of weirs. This river belonged by right to an old Seigniory, and latterly it was transferred under the same title to Michael Blais, its present owner.

July 6th.—On my return, the woods adjoining the coast were on fire between Kegaska and Natashquan, and when sailing past I heard the rocks explode from the great heat. This fire was no doubt a continuation of the one which the Indians set near Natashquan; and it must have destroyed woods, &c., for about twenty miles on the north side of the river, where a change of wind carried it across a narrow part of it, and thence consumed all before it to this date. I arrived at Natashquan in the evening.

I did not notice many cases of consumption or other diseases that prevail in inland towns or villages.

I understand that neither Esquimaux Point or Natashquan can boast of a resident medical man. Although the people of these settlements are, to a great degree, free from the mortality that occasionally visit inland places, still they have diseases peculiar to themselves. One of these is called "Cold Murrain," or poisoning of the fingers while skinning seals in the spring of the year. The following account of its supposed origin was related by one of the sufferers:—If a man receives a scratch or puncture on any of his fingers when on the ice, and afterwards skin seals, the inoculation will certainly take place, and they become useless by a disease resembling whitlow. The people have not yet discovered the actual cause,—but that there is some kind of poisonous fluid circulating in the animal during the spring, which produces the disease cannot be disputed, as crews of vessels have been poisoned while seal-hunting on the ice.

July 13th.—I learned from F. Dore, Esq. of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Natashquan, that a Quebec steamer was at Mingan. He engaged a barge to go to the latter place on business, and I embraced the opportunity of getting a little nearer home. At 11 o'clock I was on the sea again, and arrived at the Agwanus river in the afternoon. The wind being contrary, it was impossible to proceed further, and I was hospitably received by Mr. Sylvester Kennedy, the lessee of the river. Iron sand occurs on the banks of this river. Mr. Kennedy expressed himself in rather strong terms against surveyors entering the locality and taking lots in the vicinity of his house, and he ordered them off. The Agwanus enters the sea on the west of Natashquan. It is a good salmon river, and is selected by the Indians as a northern canoe route.

July 14.—The vessel was directed westward at nine o'clock a.m., and I arrived at the Nantappi in the afternoon. It is a narrow, although good salmon river, entering the sea on the east of Watchsheshoo. From the appearance of the locality, I have no doubt that iron-sand will be discovered near the river. The inhabitants are unwilling to give information to strangers relative to the whereabouts of the metal. The Hudson's Bay Co. formerly had a post where the house of Mr. Rochet now stands,