

SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT.

Bay up to the year 1743, writes under date of that year :—" And then as to observing the latitude in foggy seasons, I have seldom missed two days together, if it be tolerable smooth water, as you will find in our journals."

This is a particularly important statement coming from a man who was then accused by opponents of the Hudson's Bay Company as working and writing entirely in its interest, and with suppressing anything favorable to the navigation of those waters.

The following taken from Chappelle, an officer of H. M. S. "Rosamond," who convoyed the ships of the Hudson's Bay Company into the Bay during the war of 1814, may better explain why we have such a difficulty in procuring correct and authentic charts of these waters :

"Nothing can be more incorrect than the chart supplied me by the Admiralty for the guidance of a man-of-war in Hudson's Strait, it absolutely bears no resemblance to the channel of which it is intended to be an exact delineation. During the time we continued in Hudson's Strait, the "Rosamond" was entirely piloted by a chart belonging to the Chief Mate of the Prince of Wales, and one of his own making ; yet he was so jealous of his performance, that he was highly offended at our masters having endeavoured to take a copy of it ; and from thence forward kept his chart carefully locked up.

"When I questioned him, with some freedom, on this mysterious conduct, the selfish motive stood at once confessed, he feared lest, from others attaining the same knowledge as himself, they might be induced to enter into the service of the Company, and thereby possibly supplant him in his situation. And such I found to be the motives which induced the majority of these experienced seamen to keep their truly valuable information concealed within their own bosoms.

"An idea may be had of the correctness of the latest Admiralty chart of the North Atlantic when we find the *head of tide* in the St. Lawrence River, is placed at *Ogdensburg, N. Y., and Prescott, Ontario*. It is no wonder that we are told that the information in the hands of the Admiralty shows that navigation in Hudson's Bay is only open for six weeks or two months.

"The Ministry of Marine and War, of France, have large and extensive charts, maps, profiles, etc., of the coast of Labrador, Hudson's Strait and Hudson's Bay. Some of these may now be seen in the archives of the department in a building facing on the Place de la Concorde, Paris. The charts and profiles are on a very large scale, and are most comprehensive.

"Many people labor under the impression that York Factory is on the