

found from Hopes Advance to the Hudson's Bay Company post at Cape Wolstenholme.

The west coast of the Labrador peninsula or the east coast of Hudson bay presents a complete contrast to the Ungava and Atlantic seaboard. The bold precipitous coasts give way to low-lying shores of limestone. Deep inlets, abounding in waterfowl, are replaced by shoal and barren waters, where numerous groups of infinitesimal islands, nicknamed the "Sleepers," render navigation difficult. Good harbours are few and far between. The only inlets on this coast are Richmond gulf and Mosquito bay. Here a few Eskimo are found scattered along the desolate shore. The main body of the population is between Cape Smith and Cape Wolstenholme. In summer the Eskimo fish in the rivers, or visit the large islands off the coast, where game, being only hunted at irregular periods, abounds.¹

Remains of old villages and hunting camps, found on Mansel, Nottingham, Coats, and Southampton islands, form convincing evidence of a former population of considerable size; but the Eskimo are extinct now, and the islands rarely visited, except for hunting purposes. The Belcher islands, at the foot of the bay, are still inhabited by a wild tribe who visit the Hudson's Bay Company post at Great Whale river annually. They are said to retain the bird-skin clothing and stone implements of the early Labrador Eskimo.²

ANCIENT DISTRIBUTION OF ESKIMO.

When first discovered by the French, the Eskimo inhabited the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence as far west as Mingan. They were driven from this locality at the beginning of the seventeenth century by the Montagnais Indians, who had been

¹ In the summer of 1914, when the author landed on Coats island, near an old Eskimo camp, the game was so tame that it refused to move until shot at. Two polar bears were sleeping on opposite hills within a quarter of a mile of the village, and a herd of caribou was feeding peacefully nearby.

The Hudson's Bay Company put a party of Eskimo on Nottingham island last autumn and a whaling captain placed another party on Southampton island to take advantage of this unusual game supply.

² C. H. and A. T. Leith, *A summer and winter in Hudson bay*, Madison, 1912.