

ing and Cabbage, and some few Carrots: That the Beans are generally blighted; but the Turnips, Peas and Cabbage, are in great Plenty and Perfection, but they have fresh Seed sent over every Year: That the Land is cultivated for about a Mile round *Albany* Fort, being dug with Spades upon the breaking of the Frost, which generally happens, about the 20th or 21st of April.

And being asked the Question, he said, That if he had a Grant of One hundred Acres of Land, and Liberty to trade, he would settle there with all his Heart.

That the French intercept the Trade; to prevent which the Company some time ago built *Henly* House, which did in some measure answer the Purpose; but if they would build further in the Country, it would have a better effect.

That the French went there first, and are better beloved; but if we would go up into the Country, the French Indians would trade with us.

*Thomas Barnett*, Smith, says, He went over to *Albany* in the Year 1741, when he saw some Ore there, which, as he was informed, was brought from the *East Main*: That this Ore being in Quantity about half a Pound, was brought to him by the Governor *Mr. Isbester*, and the Master of a Sloop, in order to be tried: That it was once melted, and upon trying it with a Hammer it was hard; but upon melting it again, it appeared like common Lead: Upon which the Governor addressing himself to the Master of the Sloop, said, If there is enough of this, it will make brave Ballast for Ships; but that the Witness did not hear the Master's Answer: That he supposes Crucibles were sent from *England*, at the Governor's Request, to make the aforesaid Experiment.

And being asked, If he knew any Person who was aboard the Vessel that brought over the said Ore? he said, He knew one *Archibald Slater*, who he was informed was aboard that Sloop, and whom he believed to be now in *England*.

*Mr. Alexander Browne*, who has been Six Years in the Company's Service at *Hudson's Bay* as Surgeon, informed your Committee, that he has seen both Copper and Copper Ore at *Prince of Wales's Fort* in *Churchill* River, which the Northern Indians informed the Witness they brought from an Isthmus of Land, which lies by a Lake at the farthest Extent of their Country: That 'tis hard to ascertain the Distance from the Accounts of the Indians, but that 'tis judged to be about Three or Four hundred Miles: that he never heard the Indians say whether there was a Passage to this Place from the Bay by Water, but they informed him their River ran by it.

That they bring down the Copper for Ornaments; and that they brought down the Ore at the Request of Governor *Norton*: But that the Witness does not know whether any of it was sent to *England*, or whether any Trial was made of it there: That he has seen about Four or Five Pounds of it, both before it was smelted, and after; and he takes it to be a rich Ore, but does not understand Metals. That he has heard of Lead Ore at *Hudson's Bay*, but never saw any.

That he never saw the Indians smelt it; but they informed him, that the Earth was washed from the Ore by Showers, and that they smelt it on a Fire till it runs, and then beat it, it being very malleable: That he never heard of a Copper Mine on the large Arm of the Sea, but the Ore is brought down by Canoes to the open Sea; and that the Rivulet which washes the said Copper is not known to have any Communication with *Hudson's Bay*, the Mine being about Fifteen Miles from the open Sea, by the Accounts of the Indians.

That they might bring the Ore in their Canoes to *Churchill* River; but the Witness can't say whether the Company's Sloops could go within Fifteen or Sixteen Miles of the Mine, since there are frequent Shoals in those Seas: But Canoes may come down to meet the Vessels; for the Ice makes the Water so smooth, that a Canoe can live Thirty Leagues from Shore. That he apprehends the Indians come a little to the Northward of *Whale Cove*, which bears a Point or two to the West of the North from *Churchill*.

That if the Indians were encouraged, they would bring great Quantities of Ore, as well as smelted Copper, to *Whale Cove*; and that a Pound and a Half of Ore would, in the Opinion of the Witness, produce a Pound of pure Metal. That if Persons were sent up to the Mine, they might smelt the Ore there; but they would labour under a Difficulty for Want of Fuel, the Country producing no Wood; and what the Indians smelt, they do in small Quantities with Moss.

That the Country about the Mine is only inhabited in the Fishing Season; and that he apprehends it produces Furs: And that he never heard the Company offer to trade with the Indians for Copper: That the Rivulet which runs by the Mine runs into the Sea; and that he apprehends there is a Communication betwixt this Sea and *Whale Cove*: That he has heard the late *Mr. Norton* (who was the first that brought the Northern Indians to trade, being sent among them for that Purpose by the then Governor) say, that he had been at this Mine, and that a considerable Quantity of Copper might be brought down: That the Indians will carry their Canoes, as the Witness believes, about Four or Five Miles over Land, but they often leave their Canoes and go within Land: That on *Mr. Norton's* being sent to the Northern Indians, a small Trade was carried on, which has been improved of late Years, but nothing to what it might be by giving the Encouragement of a greater Price: But *Mr. Norton* never told the Witness why the Copper Trade was not carried on.

That the Company buy all the Goods that are brought, the Indians having no other Market; but that if they allowed them a better Price, they would certainly bring down more.

That several of the Indians come down yearly, but others will not till Necessity drives them; but the Northern Indians are more industrious than the others, and would come down as often as the Season would permit: That they live chiefly on Fish, and carry their Goods generally upon their Shoulders: That the Company trade to *Whale Cove* every Year with a Sloop, but sometimes find no Indians there: And that the Witness never heard of those Indians trading with any other than British Subjects.

Being asked, What other Minerals he had seen there, he said, he had seen large Quantities of Red Earth, which is got about Thirty-six Miles to the Southward of *Churchill* River: That he had tried some of it in a Crucible, and found it to contain a heavy metallic Substance, like Cinnabar, and a Fluid like Quicksilver: That this Trial was only to satisfy his Curiosity, having received no Orders to make it; but the Governor was present at the Experiment: And upon the Witness representing his Surprise to him, that the Company did not endeavour to improve these Discoveries, the Governor answered, that he was likewise surprised that they did not.

That he apprehends, that by opening the Trade more Ore, as well as Furs, would be brought, the French intercepting the Southern Indians, and by that means obtaining the valuable Furs: And that he has been informed by the Indians, that the French *Canadeese* Indians come within Sixscore Miles of the English Factories: That he never heard any Indians speak French,