

SETTLEMENTS.

There is practically no settlement through the far north country—the only inhabitants being a few Esquimaux and Indians.

There are not many Esquimaux in the country. They are not a prolific race at all. Witness supposed the total number of Esquimaux he saw all through would be about 500. Of course the Indians do not go north to the barren lands, except that they hunt a little way in them.

The Esquimaux are happy when they have plenty to eat and the weather is fine. He had never seen a happier people under those circumstances. With the appliances they have for catching fish it is hard to get them. In the summer time they live in skin tents, the skin having the hair on; in the winter time they live in snow houses.

The Esquimaux apparently have very little communication with white people, because they have very few white men's implements. For the most part their hooks were made of nails, and other things they probably have picked up from other Esquimaux who were trading to Hudson bay. They use the bow and arrow a good deal and hunt the cariboo almost entirely with the spear.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

The only means of communication in the north is by canoes, but at the same time Mr. Tyrrell remarked that he would not have any hesitation in taking a train of pack horses, and coming with a pack train between the water stretches across that country.

NOTE.—Evidence given by Mr. Tyrrell as to the practicability of the Hudson bay route, will be found in Section C.