

and Monkman, to whom evaporation kettles were supplied by the Hudson's Bay Company. Monkman carried on operations at Swan River, Duck River, and at Monkman's Salt Springs, Lake Winnipegosis. The freemen evidently extended their field to Lake Manitoba; for Simpson⁷ writes in 1836 that "on some of its [Lake Manitoba] tributary streams tolerable salt is obtained by the freemen from saline springs". At that time, also, operations were evidently active at Swan River. Simpson reached the river at a point "close to the tents of some freemen, who subsist by hunting, fishing, and making salt and maple sugar".⁸

In 1858, at the time of Hind's visit, manufacture was carried on "with profit for the Hudson's Bay Company, at Swan River, and at Winnipegosis Lake by Monkman's sons".⁹ In 1874, J. Y. Spencer¹⁰ visited Monkman's Springs, and found that Mr. McKay, the only person engaged in the business, made about five hundred bushels, or less than half the quantity which had been manufactured in previous years. Before 1889, when J. B. Tyrrell examined the Winnipegosis district, the industry had ceased, though the Indians occasionally boiled down a little salt from the brines.¹¹ Mr. Isaac Cowie of Winnipeg informs me that until 1876, at which time he was in charge of the Swan River district, the salt for all the Hudson's Bay Company posts from Norway House to Qu'Appelle was supplied from Lake Winnipegosis. The manufacturers evidently found that it was increasingly difficult to compete with imported English salt, which

⁷ Simpson's *Narrative of the Discovery of the West Coast of America*, 1843, p. 31.

⁸ Simpson's *Narrative of the Discovery of the West Coast of America*, 1843, p. 63.

⁹ Simpson's *Narrative of the Discovery of the West Coast of America*, 1843, p. 94.

¹⁰ *Geological Survey of Canada, Report of Progress, 1874-1875*, p. 69.

¹¹ *Geological Survey of Canada, Annual Report, Vol. V, Part I, 1890-1891*, p. 220 E.