

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

would get a heavy stick of tamarac or black spruce and point it very sharply and get a number of men to work it down to a considerable depth through the muskeg. Sometimes he would find, where there was moss on top of the muskeg, some ice immediately below it, but in a general way the ground is not deeply frozen. The water drips out from the muskeg on top of high banks all winter and the little streams run all winter. The bottom is not frozen, and the brooks must have this water supply during winter.

The muskeg extends up the Churchill river for fifty miles or more.

Witness said that he did not know if there is a good route along the river to Churchill, where the muskeg can be avoided. Probably by going far enough east or west a route could be obtained. He doubted if a railway could follow the bank of the river, but he did not think there would be any such difficulty in building a railway down to a point 50 miles from the bay. The only difficulty might be in building the 50 miles nearest to the bay. The best way might be to keep to the east side. The harbour is on the east side, and on the west side it is shallow. Just at the mouth of the Churchill river the land is all dry. He had walked along many miles to the east and west. He had been, say ten miles west, and ten east. From Churchill harbour or from 'the New Fort,' which is five miles up, in going straight west, it is dry all round Button's bay, and everywhere thereabouts, and to the east of the river there is a dry streak at least ten miles along the coast.

Dr. Bell said he expects the bed of the muskeg is just a lateral extension of the immediate valley of the river.