

Life at an

Eastern Arctic Detachment



Pond Inlet Detachment.

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An interesting account of life in the
Eastern Arctic, written by a member
of the Force stationed at Pond Inlet
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UNTIL the year 1880 little official interest had been shown in that vast stretch of Arctic tundra and waste lying across the north end of the continent of North America. Franklin, Hudson and others had tried to find a route through it in their searches for a North-West Passage, only to perish in the attempt. There was nothing about this land to recommend it either as a valuable annexation or colony, and it produced no apparent quantity of natural products of any value. Great Britain had laid claim to these lands, but even she did not know their extent, nor was she

prepared to establish some system of supervision and control over them. Consequently as a result of Canada showing interest in annexing them to the Dominion, they were handed over to her by an Imperial Order-in-Council in 1880¹.

From this time until 1900 the newly-annexed North received increased public attention as white men were pushing into its unknown interior by boat and dog team, and more were urged on by the mysterious tales which found their way out of this strange new land.

¹The Northwest Territories Act, passed on May 7, 1880.