

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

made the atmosphere cloudy for a few hours. Hudson's Bay is not a stormy sea.

The coast from York to Churchill is not at all dangerous. The bottom is generally either sandy or muddy, and gives good anchorage. Could coast along about five miles out where we got five fathoms water. The prevailing winds are about north west and N. N. W.

The ice forms out of Churchill coast about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from shore.

Wintered at Churchill five winters. The ice on river forms about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick. The Churchill Harbor is clear of ice from 15th July to 15th October. Entrance to Harbor generally freezes over, but ice is not thick. Ice rises and falls with the tide.

(Signed.) JAMES HACKLAND.

1. CAPT. COLIN R. SINCLAIR.

2. Retired merchant navy.

3. Seven Oaks, Kildonan.

4. I was brought up at York Factory, where my father was chief factor. Went through the Straits first in 1824 or 1825; arrived in Stromness about the first week in October. Passage about five weeks. Saw no ice in Hudson's Straits. Had fair weather in Bay and Straits. In middle of April, 1844 or 1845 passed entrance to Hudson's Straits on a sealing voyage and saw no ice. The entrance to Straits was quite free. Have had opportunity of obtaining information from experienced persons as to navigation of Hudson's Straits and am confident that there is no unusual danger or difficulty attending such navigation that the appliances of modern science cannot overcome. Have been engaged in navigating northern waters for six years. Think that steam vessels are best suited for navigation amongst ice, as they can follow open channels irrespective of wind or current. Much of the preconceived opinion as to the difficulty of navigation arises from experience of slow-going sailors. Do not think that fogs are prevalent in Hudson's Bay and Straits. The same reason does not exist as on the coast of Newfoundland, as there is no headed Gulf Stream to encounter colder temperature of the northern waters, which is the cause of Newfoundland fogs. I have never seen fogs in Hudson's Straits. It is my opinion that three and a half to four months open navigation could be found through Hudson's Straits. The Hudson's Bay vessels never attempted to force their passage through ice. If they encounter ice they anchor to it, and wait until it breaks up. Such vessels are not calculated to form a test as to the practicability of navigation of the Straits. Do not consider naviga-