

The average depth of the Bay is about seventy fathoms according to Chappelle, who made extensive soundings; this depth is evenly distributed, and there is a singular freedom from shoals or dangerous reefs, and the approach to the west shore shows a level, sandy bottom. . . .

James' Bay begins at Cape Jones on the east side, and Cape Henrietta Maria on the west, and runs south about 360 miles, with an average breadth of about 150 miles. The Bay is named after Capt. James, who wintered there in 1632. . . .

Hudson's Strait is about 500 miles in length, and varies from 45 miles to 150 miles in breadth, having an average of about 100 miles.

Letter of Charles Horetzky, lately in the Hudson's Bay Company's service, to Col. Dennis, 4th of Nov., 1878:

"In regard to the country for agriculture, the country that I have spoken of, south and south-west of James' Bay, lies in the latitude of Cornwall and Devonshire, in England, and southward of that; it is the same latitude as the northerly parts of France; and while these countries enjoy exceptionally favourable conditions, there is no peculiarity of climate that would make the district I have referred to worse than the average of the face of the earth in those latitudes, and therefore I think it is likely to be of value for agriculture, as far as climate is concerned."

The temperature below the immediate surface of Lake Superior is 39° Fahr.; along the east shore of Hudson's Bay it averaged 53° in the summer months.

What is the liability to summer frosts in the country around Hudson's Bay? In the larger area of agricultural land south and south-west of James' Bay, I think not very great. In 1877, on my homeward journey, I left Moose Factory on the 1st October, and at that time all the tender plants,—tobacco plants, castor oil beans, common beans, cucumbers, balsams and other tender plants,—were perfectly green, standing in the open air; and probably remained so for some time after I left, as we had no frost. And at the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, inland, they are not often troubled with early autumn frosts.

How about late frosts in the spring? No late frosts in the spring. I think sowing is done, on an average, at the same time as in corresponding latitudes in Lower Canada. I have spoken of the southern region. Further to the north-west, at Norway House,