

On Christmas day we dined at the Hudson Bay Post and were regaled on roast beaver and lynx, the former has the flavor of strong mutton while the latter closely resembles young pig, the flesh being white and delicate. These were followed by a real plum pudding. The ordinary fare at the post consisted of salt fish and watery potatoes, thrice a day, relieved with an occasional meal of partridges or rabbits, and with fresh fish once a week.

January was spent around the post, considerable cold weather being experienced, the mean temperature from 3 daily readings with max. and min. was 18.5° below zero, the highest being 16° above and lowest being 56° below zero, which point was reached twice during the month.

On February 2nd, I left with two men for Lake St. John, the men drawing our small outfit and provisions of flour, lard, and tea on their toboggans. The first night out we slept in the teepee of an indian who was to guide us over the height of land. This is made of a number of poles meeting in the centre and covered with birch bark ; it has a large opening at the top, for the escape of the smoke from the fire built on a few stones in the centre of the floor. The bottom and sides are lined with green boughs. It is a most uncomfortable dwelling, as the smoke which fills the upper part, renders standing up or even sitting upright impossible, when lying down the feet are roasted by the fire while the head and shoulders are freezing from the cold draughts which penetrate through the cracks and openings in the birch bark covering.

On the trip to Lake St. John the journey was very similar to that already described ; we passed from the southern end of the lake immediately over the height of land and then followed the Chef river of the Ashouapmouchouan and thus reached our destination.

Being unable, on account of heavy falls of snow, to drag our tent and stove, they were abandoned and we were obliged to sleep during the greater part of the trip in barricades. These are made by digging a hole in the snow 12ft. long by 6ft. wide down to the ground and lining one end with boughs with a fire in the other end. No great discomforture was experienced in this mode of sleeping, as we crawled into our blanket bag, made of woven strips of rabbit skin ; this, although the finger can easily be pushed through it anywhere, is a remarkable non-