

time to the southward, in expectation of its reaching York Factory before the ship sails, or Canada or the States before the closing of the navigation.

It has not yet been decided which direction will be taken with the boats during the summer; much must depend upon the state of the ice, and the observations made in the spring; the most probable route will be round either the east or west known extremity of Victoria Land, and then to the north-eastward in the direction of Cape Walker. I shall endeavour to be here again by the 10th September, so as to embark all the party for Fort Simpson, unless instructions are received desiring that I should pass next winter at this place. To provide for such contingency I have forwarded a requisition to the gentleman in charge of M'Kenzie River district for such goods as we may require, and which he will send hither if the services of the party are required for another season.

In the event of any accident preventing my return from the coast in spring, Mr. M'Kenzie has learnt to make the necessary observations for time, latitude, longitude, and variation, so that he may carry on the search during the summer in the boats without my aid. A memorandum has been given him for his guidance, copy of which I beg to enclose.

With the assurance that no effort it may be in my power to make in any way likely to lead to the discovery and assistance of the venerable Sir John Franklin and his gallant party will be omitted,

I have, &c.

JOHN RAE, C. F.

P. S.—During the last three days we have had a great thaw, which is remarkable here at this season. The temperature has ranged from 34° to 41° in the shade, and much snow has disappeared. It will be unfavourable for our transport business.

JOHN RAE.

Dr. RAE to Mr. H. A. M'KENZIE.

MEMORANDUM.

Before taking my departure on a foot journey to the Arctic coast I beg to hand you the following observations for your guidance during my absence.

It is almost unnecessary to say anything on the subject of the common duties at this place, as they are to be carried on much in the same manner as during the winter; bearing in mind always that there should be no useless waste, either of ammunition or provisions, as our stock of both is far from large. You will also impress upon John Fabien (the man to be left in charge during the summer) the necessity of care on these two particulars.

The most important duty you will have to attend to is, the transport of the boats across to the Kendall River. This work occupied Dease and Simpson's party thirteen days, and mine in 1849 a like time; however, by having favourable weather and following the route I took, it may easily be accomplished in a less period. Two of the small streams through which you will have to pass are navigable only during the spring floods, which circumstance is the only cause for haste, so as to reach them before the water subsides too much. But in no case allow even this consideration to induce you to hurry forward at the risk of damaging the boats, which ought to be particularly guarded against; and you will caution your men on this subject especially, and whenever there is any difficulty let both crews unite, and pass one boat at a time. Six or seven Indians will be engaged to assist you, to be paid a M. Br. each, or more in the event of good conduct, for every day they are employed; these, with one of the men that are to summer here, will make your party amount to thirteen or fourteen, a number large enough for any purpose required.

The ice on Dease River usually breaks up between the 1st and 10th June, possibly earlier; you will consequently about that time station there, or send daily, a trustworthy man, who may have nets set to obtain a supply of fish, to notice when the ice has ceased driving; after which no time should be lost before hauling the boats and baggage to the river, and commencing the ascent of it. If there be symptoms of a speedy decay of the lake ice you might take the boats to the river, or as near it as danger from the driving ice will admit, at an earlier date, but this you will be able to judge of for yourself.

It is difficult to specify the quantity of provisions that will be required for your party during the time you are crossing the Kendall, but I should consider two bags of pemmican, one bale of dry meat, and half a bag of flour amply sufficient, as in a few days after leaving this your Indians can, in all probability, kill deer enough for the maintenance of all. Should such be the case, venison is always to be used instead of pemmican or dry meat, to save the two latter as much as possible.

In the event of my considering it requisite to send an express to Fort Simpson after my return to the Kendall from my foot journey, the Indian that has been engaged to carry it will accompany you part of the way across, so as to meet the person I may send with despatches. On the receipt of these they are, without a moment's loss of time, to be sent hither, where the Indian and a companion are to be supplied with sufficient provisions, say 40 lbs. dry meat each, and a quantity of ammunition, so as to start without delay by the