

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

I do not consider Hudson's Bay a stormy bay. There are squalls sometimes but not frequently. The severest storm there I remember was in the fall of 1861. The "Prince of Wales" was anchored off Ship River. She was not blown from her anchorage. The wind was about north-east. The schooner was out all night, and so was the packet boat, but neither was lost. The packet boat is about the same tonnage as the coast boats. It is an open boat, with two lug sails. The winds are stronger in winter than in the summer time.

(Signed) HENRY JOHNSTON.

26TH MARCH, 1884.

1. CAPT. JAS. HACKLAND,
2. Retired H. B. Co. Officer,
3. Headingly.

4. Has been employed by Hudson's Bay Company 39 years. First navigated Hudson's Bay in 1843, and was in command of H. B. Co's schooner for 16 years from that time. This schooner ran from York to Churchill, wintered at York. The rule was that we should be ready for coasting service on the 15th July, when the coast was supposed to be clear of ice. Could sometimes have navigated before, but our rule was safety. The bay at Churchill was not open usually before the 10th to 15th July. The water was open in Channel, but shore ice was fast for half a mile out until that time. The ice commenced to form at Churchill from 10th to 15th October, it was drifting ice, would not impede navigation of steamers. The vessel I sailed was 80ft keel, about 120 tons, schooner rigged was suited for navigating in ice.

Have been four times through the Hudson's Straits. Left Orkney 22nd June 1860, and passed through Straits about middle of July, was 30 days from Stromness to York, saw no ice on that occasion except at a distance to southward. Hugged north shore of Straits. In any trip I met no ice that we could not avoid, saw floating ice most times. Do not think that the ice would be any impediment to steamships following the route. The Straits are open all year round, never freezes, there is no reason why steamships should not navigate the Straits at any time. The ice from Fox Channel sticks among islands at west end of Straits. The ice from Fox Channel comes down in July. It never goes into Hudson's Bay, but follows current through Straits. The navigation of the western end of the Straits is, therefore most interrupted at that time.

The navigation of Hudson's Bay and Straits is not considered dangerous. There are no shoals, there are few fogs. During 16 years navigation of Hudson's Bay was never impeded by fog. Sometimes the vapor off the ice