

the Spring was there, and the Weather so warm ; but when he came within four or five Leagues of the Fort where the Land began to slope towards the Sea, he then found a great deal of Ice in the River, and the Trees but just budding, and when he got to the Fort, the Snow fell in one Night three or four Inches thick, but all above, along the River, the Climate and Season was warm, and the Trees all in high Bloom.

Two Days after he got to *York Fort*, one of the *Monsoni Indians* arrived there with his Wife ; he had four Packs of Beavers of 40 each ; he told him he came by the River and Lake *Du Pique*, and was two Years hunting from thence before he got to the Fort ; that he had about sixty Land Carriages, passing from Lake to Lake, having no Rivers running the Course he came, except one which he passed down for two Days ; he came to one very great Lake, in which he could discover no Land on either Side, but passed along it from Island to Island, which took him up a considerable Time.

The *Indians* being obliged to go ashore every Day to hunt for Provisions, delays them very much in their Voyages ; for their Canoes are so small, holding only two Men and a Pack of 100 Beavers Skins, that they can't carry Provisions with them for any Time ; if they had larger Canoes they could make their Voyages shorter, and carry many more Beavers to Market, at least four times as many, besides other Skins of Value, which are too heavy for their present Canoes ; this, and the high Price set upon the *European Goods* by the Company in Exchange, discourages the Natives so much, that if it were not that they are under a Necessity of having Guns, Powder and Shot, Hatchets, and other Iron Tools for their Hunting, and Tobacco, Brandy, and some Paint for Luxury, they would not go down to the Factory with what they now carry ; at present they leave great Numbers of Furs and Skins behind them. A good Hunter among the *Indians* can kill 600 Beavers in a Season, and can carry down but 100, the rest he uses at home, or hangs them upon Branches of Trees, upon the Death of their Children as an Offering to them, or use them for Bedding and Coverings ; they sometimes burn off the Fur, and roast the Beavers like Pigs, upon any Entertainments, and they often let them rot, having no further Use of them. The Beavers, he says, are of three Colours ; the brown reddish Colour, the black,  
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