

Society of Canada, Vol. VIII, Section IV, 1890, pp. 51-52. This is as follows :

“One further circumstance may, in conclusion, be referred to here as being readily and intelligibly explicable on the hypothesis of a considerable elevation of the land at about this time, (close of the glacial period.) This is the existence at the present day of Caribou in the northern part of Queen Charlotte Islands.

“In a former report on these islands I have spoken of the occurrence of the Elk or Wapiti on them. This statement was, however, based merely on Indian report, as none of the animals in question were seen. Since that time I have learned from Mr. W. Charles, that the animal in question is really the Caribou, and I have been shown by him the skin and antlers of one of these animals. The Caribou is not now found anywhere else in the region of the coast, either on the islands or on the Coast Ranges, though it roams over high plateaux to the east of these ranges. The shortest distance between any point of the Queen Charlotte Islands and the nearest islands of the Coast Archipelago is thirty miles, and the intervening strait is subject to rapid tidal currents. The isolation of the Queen Charlotte Islands is in fact so complete that the Deer, which inhabits all the other islands of the coast, is not found in this group.

“It is, therefore, in the absence of the Caribou from the neighboring coast and its adjacent islands, and in consideration of the width of the waterway which would have to be crossed, at least highly probable that this animal reached the Queen Charlotte Islands under the present conditions. I am thus led to believe that the Caribou colonized the islands at a time at which either the glaciers extending from the mainland attained to the Queen Charlotte Islands, or by a land connection during a period of greater elevation.* The latter is in every way the more probable supposition, and, if it be entertained, it may further be assumed that the animal came to the islands at the date of the immediately post-glacial elevation above indicated, and that it has since, as an isolated colony, succeeded in maintaining itself there.

* This minimum amount of elevation required would be about 200 feet above the present level,