

mercial importance—copper. The metal is so abundant that not only do they gather in the summer enough to supply the wants of all their neighbours and to pay for most of their own imports, but it is found in such large, pure and easily workable masses, that they are induced to make of copper various articles which even among other copper gatherers (e.g., the Kōglūktōgmīūt of Bloody fall) are made of bone or horn, such as the middle-piece of the seal harpoon, snow testers for discovering suitable building sites in winter, "feelers" for locating seal holes, etc. They find enough fire stone (pyrites) for their own use, though not equal in quantity or quality to that found among the Hanerāgmīūt. Since 1855 or thereabout M'Clure's abandoned ship the "Investigator" and her caches on shore in the Bay of Mercy on north Banks island have helped the tribe to retain the mastery of the commercial situation locally. Though their last expedition to the wreck (which has long been broken up by the waves) was some fifteen or twenty years ago, articles of iron are even now more abundant and cheaper among them than among the more eastern groups who are nearer the present source of supply—Hudson bay.

At present the Sound people trade chiefly with three tribes—the Hanerāgmīūt, Pūiblirmīūt, and Ekallūktōgmīūt. For a hundred or so years ago there are to be added, to our knowledge, the now extinct tribes of northwestern Victoria island and Banks island and the vanished inhabitants of Cape Parry. There may be copper in the district north of Minto inlet; there is almost certainly none in Banks island; there is quite certainly none on the mainland near Cape Parry so far as the Eskimo have discovered; this whole now deserted territory they must, therefore, have supplied with copper through indefinite periods of the past, as they now supply both southwestern and southeastern Victoria island (but not south-central Victoria island). What the western limits of the copper traffic were in early times future archaeological research may show; certainly some of it got beyond the Mackenzie delta.

Next in importance to their activities as original producers of copper, comes their traffic as middlemen in stone lamps and stone pots. They say (and the uniformity of type and material