

My suggestion is that a permanent experimental station be started on Melville island, bring a certain number of animals in each year and gradually accumulate a herd and eventually the business after it had become established would extend further south and to Labrador.

You find musk oxen within 400 miles from the north pole, and they are grass eaters. There is plenty of coal in all those islands except Victoria island, plenty in Banks island, Melville island, Ellef Ringnes Island and Amund Ringnes island.

During the winter we spent on Melville island we had two camps, 90 miles apart, both located at coal mines. One produced a bituminous shale that would leave a residue, almost the same size and shape as the piece that you would put in the stove. The other was a good quality of coal similar to the Ladysmith coal which we carried on one of our ships.

I think Churchill would be the best place to establish a musk-ox ranch because we know that it is good musk country. They have inhabited the vicinity within the last hundred years. It is convenient to the Hudson Bay railway and I have a good deal of faith in Hudson strait. The land we are speaking of is the coming great grazing country of the world. This and the tracts are in the same latitude in Siberia. In temperate lands the raising of potatoes and apples and wheat are more profitable. The semi-arid lands of Washington, Arizona, and Alberta are being converted into agricultural lands by irrigation. The grazing lands are consequently getting less and less and the price of meat and wool will not come down; and if we continue to be a meat-eating and wool-using people the vast lands of the north will have great value. The people who tell me about the difficulties of navigation up north commonly exaggerate them. The basis of our success in our last expedition was the fact that we ignored the people who harp on supposed impossibilities. They told me exactly why it was impossible to do the things that we have since done. People who should have known better had no faith in the food-producing power of the north. I started north over the ice from Alaska, carrying no food. The authorities were against it and said it could not be done safely—starvation would inevitably result—but we never missed a meal, our dogs never missed a meal and we travelled 10,000 miles without losing a dog. Our critics had completely under-valued the resources of the north. A most outrageous thing, I think, is to say, as our school geographies do, that the northwest country is a country covered with lichens, part is in fact forested and the open country is mainly prairie country, grasses and not lichens form the main part of the vegetation. You do not find muskeg and moss except in rocky places. Wherever the land is level and not rocky you find grass.

I have seen coal in nearly every island north of Canada. There is a copper-bearing district from the northeast country of Bear lake, running 100 miles east by 200 miles north, where copper is well known to outcrop here and there. At present the cost of mining that copper is prohibitive but if you once got the country settled the cost of mining would be reduced and the other resources of the country will in general increase in value through the settlement of the country that will result from the taking up of the reindeer industry.

The fishing in Great Slave and Great Bear lakes will probably be found to be the best in Canada, the best in the world. I have seen trout weighing 50 pounds up there. The bays begin to freeze over about the 20th October and by the 10th or 20th November the whole lake is frozen over.

I do not know of any evidence to show that the tree line is going south. I do know a good deal of evidence in the other direction, because the glaciers in Greenland and southern Alaska are retreating, getting smaller every year. So far as we know the climate is getting warmer. We have caught codfish in the Arctic ocean which seemed to be identical with the Atlantic cod. We caught herring in tremendous schools in 100-fathom sweep nets. You would get a boatload practically at a sweep. Then there are whitefish and many other kinds of fish. In starting a herd of reindeer in the north