

#### BIOGRAPHY OF

route was long and dangerous, covering a distance of 2,000 miles from Quebec to Ungava. This immense distance had been traversed by Donald Smith on foot and with dog-sleds. The news from home started from Bersimis, 150 miles below Quebec, then to Mingan, thence to Eskimo Point, thence to Bonne Esperance and finally to Rigoulette, the headquarters of young Smith. In this bleak region travellers were often overtaken by blizzards and their lives were in peril. More than once the young man missed his way, and with his native companion was compelled to take shelter for the night with no protection but their blankets till the storm had passed. It was necessary for the traveller to be always prepared with plenty of warm clothing and an extra supply of provisions, for no one could tell in what an evil plight one might find himself.

The long winter nights would be spent in reading, in writing lengthy letters home, and in cultivating his mental powers. He did not know what he was doing, but he was really getting ready for tasks of which he never dreamed. Thousands of youths elsewhere, richly endowed, besieged by every opportunity, were wasting the golden hours, while this raw lad was carving for himself out of the barren north the material for a splendid career.

It was certainly a period of grim and stern discipline. The Company's officers were of necessity stern and rigid. There is a story told of the young man which, if true, illustrates the strictness of the rule. It is said that being troubled with a com-