

permine east of McTavish bay, cross the river there and strike the northeast corner of the bay. Those who followed this route sometimes did not get quite to "Big Stick island," for they found suitable wood in the Coppermine valley. In 1910 one party that came by it did not return by this route, but joined the Kōglūk-tōgmūt (or followed them, rather) going by the western route to the mouth of the Coppermine, and then proceeded homeward east along the ice of Coronation gulf.

Some of those bound for Great Bear lake come a greater or lesser part of the way by sled in the spring, others pack the entire distance from the sea. Some carry kayaks for spearing caribou, but these are seldom if ever brought farther south than the head of the middle Dease. In the autumn all go back to the sea by sleds made during the summer. Most returning families have, therefore, a sled to sell, for their old sleds are waiting for them on or near the coast. It is these sleds that eventually find their way to all parts of Victoria island and along the mainland towards Ogden bay until they meet the sleds that have come similarly from the Akilunik.

Immediately on arrival in the summer, at a source of suitable timber, trees are chopped down (with adzes—it is a half-day's job to chop down a tree 18 inches in diameter) and adzed into planks or "roughed" into other suitable shapes. These are then set to dry and the party proceeds south or west in search of game. In the autumn when ice begins to form on the smallest ponds the parties straggle to "Big Stick island" or to wherever their wood has been set to dry. Sleds are first made, and if the season is early, few other articles are finished, but are carried "in the rough" to the seacoast by the first suitable fall of snow. In 1910 the season was late, however, and while they waited on it, the men finished new bows, spear shafts, platters, pails, tables, planks for snowhouse floors, etc. Finally their supply of dried caribou meat ran low and some of them started off carrying their belongings on their backs north towards the divide, for they can always be sure of finding snow for their sleds at that season (the middle of October) when they near Dismal lake.