

SERIAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

no ice on passage. Came out again in 1875. Left Stromness on 9th July and took ten weeks and 3 days in voyage. Had contrary winds to entrance of straits, when we got outside a field of ice. Had to make fast to field and lay there until it broke up. The "Lady Head," our consort, got inside the field and was not delayed on the passage. Encountered ice a few miles inside Resolution Island. It was three weeks before the ice broke up so that we could find a channel. Don't remember thickness of ice. A steamer could have coasted round the ice. There was open water between the ice and the land on the north side of the Straits. After we got past this field of ice, found only small broken pieces, and finished voyage to York without further difficulty. The weather was very warm and fine; the water was quite smooth. Passengers were out on ice every day.

Have coasted from York Factory to Severn—280 miles on West coast of Hudson's Bay—in York boat. In month of July, saw no ice, fine weather. The water is shoal on the coast between York and Severn, only about ten fathoms water seven miles from shore. No shipping goes to Severn. Don't know soundings in Bay opposite mouth of Severn.

Do not know how far out the shore ice forms in winter, but could see the smoke rising from open water from York Factory, which is seven miles from the mouth of Hayes' River. The ice is generally out of the Hayes River by the 20th May. It does not clear out of the Nelson River so soon, as the tide carries it in and out until it rots. The Nelson is generally clear of ice by the 1st June. Ice does not form in mouth of Nelson River all the winter, or for seven miles up. There is floating ice carried in and out with the tide, but the mouth of the Nelson is open to Hudson's Bay all winter. That is my opinion. I never went out to see if such was the case.

The coast boats leave York for Churchill about the middle of June each year. They are open boats, about 30 feet keel, carrying 8 men and setting two sails. The coast is clear of ice before the shore ice is gone. They never leave until ice has gone. It is considered 180 miles across country from York to Churchill. It is not much farther by water, as the route follows the coast line nearly all the way. The coast boats return to York about the middle of July.

The general temperature about York Factory in winter is much about as it is here. I remember that on 'Xmas day four years ago it rained, and last 'Xmas day it was thawing all day. The water was running off the roofs of the houses. When we have a south wind for a day or two it becomes quite mild weather. The wind is stronger there than here, and prevails from the north and north-east. A south wind will flow the ice off the coast in Spring when the ice breaks up.