

and up the Saskatchewan and Sturgeonweir Rivers to the Churchill River, which he reached at Frog, or Trade, Portage. Here, overlooking the river, the upper waters of which he had now discovered, he established himself for a time. His object was to intercept the northern Indians as they came down from the Athabaska country in their canoes loaded with furs to trade them for guns, ammunition, knives, and "English brandy" with the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Prince of Wales. In this enterprise he was so successful that he was not able to carry away all the furs that he secured, and he established trade relations with the Indians from the Athabaska country which were maintained by him and by the company with which he was connected for the next forty-seven years.

The following year Alexander Henry and the brothers Joseph and Thomas Frobisher, all from Montreal, left the trading post on the shore of Beaver Lake in the present Province of Saskatchewan, in which they had been living, and went to Frog Portage, where they built a house. As the Indians from Lake Athabaska had not arrived they paddled up the Churchill River to meet them, going about as far as the mouth of the Mudjatiek River (56° N. and $107\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.), where they met a band with canoes loaded with furs. They turned about and came back with them to the house at Frog Portage, where they obtained from them 12,000 beaver skins, "besides large numbers of otter and martin," giving in return such articles as they had at the house.

After such a successful trade Alexander Henry and Joseph Frobisher returned to Montreal, while Thomas Frobisher went up the Churchill River to Isle à la Crosse, where he established a trading post.

In 1778 Peter Pond followed Frobisher's route from the Saskatchewan River by Frog Portage and up the Churchill River to Isle à la Crosse, whence he continued to its source near Methye Portage on his way to Lake Athabaska.

A few years later Pond drew several maps of western Canada, one of which is said to have been made for the Empress of Russia. One of these maps, dated 1785, has been published by L. J. Burpee in his "The Search for the Western Sea,"⁵ while another, dated about 1790, has been published in the "Report of the Archives of Canada."⁶ These maps are crude and imperfect, but the former one is the first that shows the Churchill River from its source to its mouth.

In 1787 Malcolm Ross, who four years later was associated with Philip Turnor in the survey of the upper Churchill River and Lake Athabaska, ascended the Churchill River from its mouth and crossed to Cumberland House on the Saskatchewan River, though by what route is not exactly known. It is probable that he went up the river through Northern and Southern Indian Lakes, and by Nelson House (56° N. and $100\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.) and the upper waters of the Burntwood and Grass Rivers. Of this trip he

⁵ Toronto, [1908], p. 182.

⁶ 1890, p. 53.