

death of about one half of the entire Indian population from starvation and exposure. For this and other reasons, it was thought advisable to leave Fort Chimo, and to pass the winter at North-west River post at the head of Hamilton Inlet ; and to do so we took passage on the H. B. Co's steamship "Erik" to Rigolet on Hamilton Inlet. From Rigolet the supplies were sent in a small schooner to North-west River ; and from there the men were dispatched with the canoes up the Hamilton River, with instructions to go on as far as possible before the river set fast ; they ascended about 130 miles before being stopped by ice. In January an attempt was made to send provisions inland up the Hamilton River, but after ascending it 70 miles, the work was abandoned owing to the impassable nature of the ice in the rapids above. In the beginning of March the party, reinforced by a number of natives, again started inland, and this time succeeded in passing the rough ice, which in the interval had been filled in and levelled with snow. From the beginning of March to the end of May, we were engaged daily hauling on sleds loads of provisions and outfit for the coming summer's work. Finding that the work of the extra men did not assist materially they were soon discharged, and the work of moving five months' outfit devolved upon our party of six. To do this it was necessary to make at least three loads and often four, so that the same ground was passed over from five to seven times, adding great monotony to the heavy work. In this manner we proceeded inland, and when stopped by the break-up of winter, on the 20th May, we had reached a place near the Grand Falls, or 250 miles inland from the mouth of the river. During the entire time while thus engaged, we lived on a diet compound exclusively of rusty pork and flour, there being no chance to secure game or fish in the river valley at that season of the year ; and the advent of spring, bringing with it ducks and geese, and the opening of the rivers and the lakes, so that we could obtain an unlimited supply of fish, was heartily welcomed. The Hamilton River, like the Koksoak and all the