

found an inlet in the latitude of 64° north and in the longitude of 32° east from Marble island which was three or four leagues wide at its entrance, but upon their sailing eight leagues up, it increased to six or seven leagues wide. That their course so far was N.N.W. by compass, but then it began to turn more to the westward; that sailing ten leagues higher it grew narrower by degrees till it became but four leagues wide; that notwithstanding they could perceive shores open again, they were discouraged from proceeding further because the water from being salt, transparent, and deep with steep shores, and strong currents, grew fresher, thicker and shallower at that height.*

From the above account it would appear that their discoveries of the inlet ascended to the neighbourhood of Centre island, though this is somewhat uncertain since their statements of distances are very inaccurate, the width of the inlet, for instance, as seen by them being at no place more than twelve miles wide instead of seven leagues (twenty-one miles).

CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER.

In the year 1761 Chesterfield inlet was again entered by Captain Christopher, who ascended it for a distance of 100 miles, when finding the waters becoming fresh he turned back.

The following year, he, with the sloop *Churchill*, accompanied by Mr. Morton in a cutter, returned to the inlet and ascended it to Baker lake, at the west end of which they saw the mouth of a river.

On Christopher's chart, opposite the mouth of this river these words are written: 'A small river, full of falls and shoals, not water enough for a boat.'†

This note, it may be mentioned in passing, is very much at variance with the facts as now disclosed, and may be best explained by assuming that Christopher never saw the mouth of the Thelon or Doobaunt river, but got into the mouth of some smaller stream.

SAMUEL HEARNE.

The next expedition, in order of time, affording any information regarding the region in question, were those famous journeys made by Samuel Hearne in the years 1769-70-71-72, the account of which was published by himself in 1795.

His narrative throughout is an exceedingly interesting one, although not noted for geographical accuracy. It is valuable rather as an early history of a remote region of this country, and I will take the liberty of here quoting from his book certain parts having direct reference to portions of my route of exploration.

Writing of his third journey, page 84, Hearne says:

'We still continued our course to the west and west by south, and on the 8th of April (1771) arrived at a small lake called ‡Thelewey-aza-yeth, but with what propriety it is so called I cannot discover, for the meaning of Thelewey-aza-yeth is Little Fish Hill, probably so called from a high hill which stands on a long point near the west end of the lake.

'On this island in this lake we pitched our tents, and the Indians finding deer very numerous determined to stay here some time in order to dry and pound meat to take with us, for they well knew by the season of the year, that the deer were then drawing out to the barren grounds, and as the Indians proposed to walk due north on leaving this lake it was uncertain when we should meet with any more.

*Report of Doobaunt, Kazan and Ferguson rivers, by J. Burr Tyrrell, Geol. Survey of Canada, 1896.

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‡A lake on the upper portion of the Thelon river.