

During seasons when the snow is deep and their food supply consequently scarce, they proceed as far south as Lake St. John, and have even been killed immediately north of Quebec.

On Nov. 27th we commenced our winter's journey to Lake Mistassini, and as each day's journey was the same, a description of one will do for all. Breakfast was taken in the tents at daylight, and then everything packed up and laid outside; the stoves were taken down and a fire lighted, at which the frozen bottoms of the tents were melted in order to fold them; these were laid on the sleighs, the baggage and provisions laid on, wrapped in the tents or coverings, and securely lashed with long lines; at this work considerable time was lost, so that the line of march was seldom taken up before 8.30 a.m. The guide, with a light load on his sleigh, led the way and broke the path, the rest following in Indian file, each dragging a load of 200 lbs. weight. Thus the party journeyed on through the desolate country over low rounded hills and across long narrow lakes lying north and south. As the height of land was approached, the timber was found to consist almost wholly of black spruce and tamarac of small size, which scantily covered the rocky hills and swampy lake borders. At noon a stop was made near a lake or small stream, and dinner prepared at a fire built on the snow, after which the march was continued until about 4 p.m., when we pitched our tents for the night.

A place being selected for the tents, the snow was evenly packed down by tramping on it with snowshoes, then the tent and stove set up, a good supply of brush laid on the bottom, and covered with waterproof sheet and blankets, a fire lighted, and soon the tent was perfectly warm and comfortable, even with the thermometer outside 40° below zero.

The men were employed until dark cutting the night's supply of fire-wood, after which supper was eaten, a pipe smoked, and then all turned into the blankets.

The weather during December alternated between extremely cold and clear, and wild stormy days; on the stormy days the camp was not changed and the men employed the time in hunting beavers in the small lakes about. When signs were discovered, the whole party proceeded to the spot; the ice was cut round the margin of the pond and stakes placed across the outlet and inlets to prevent the escape of the