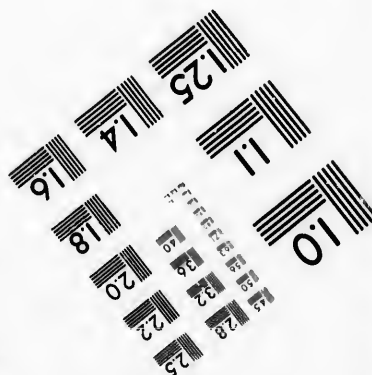
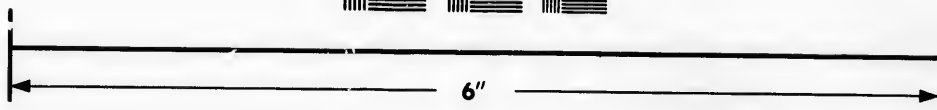
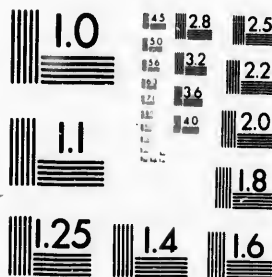


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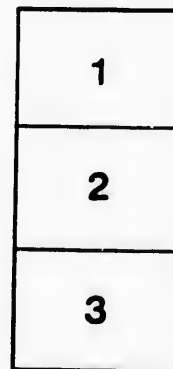
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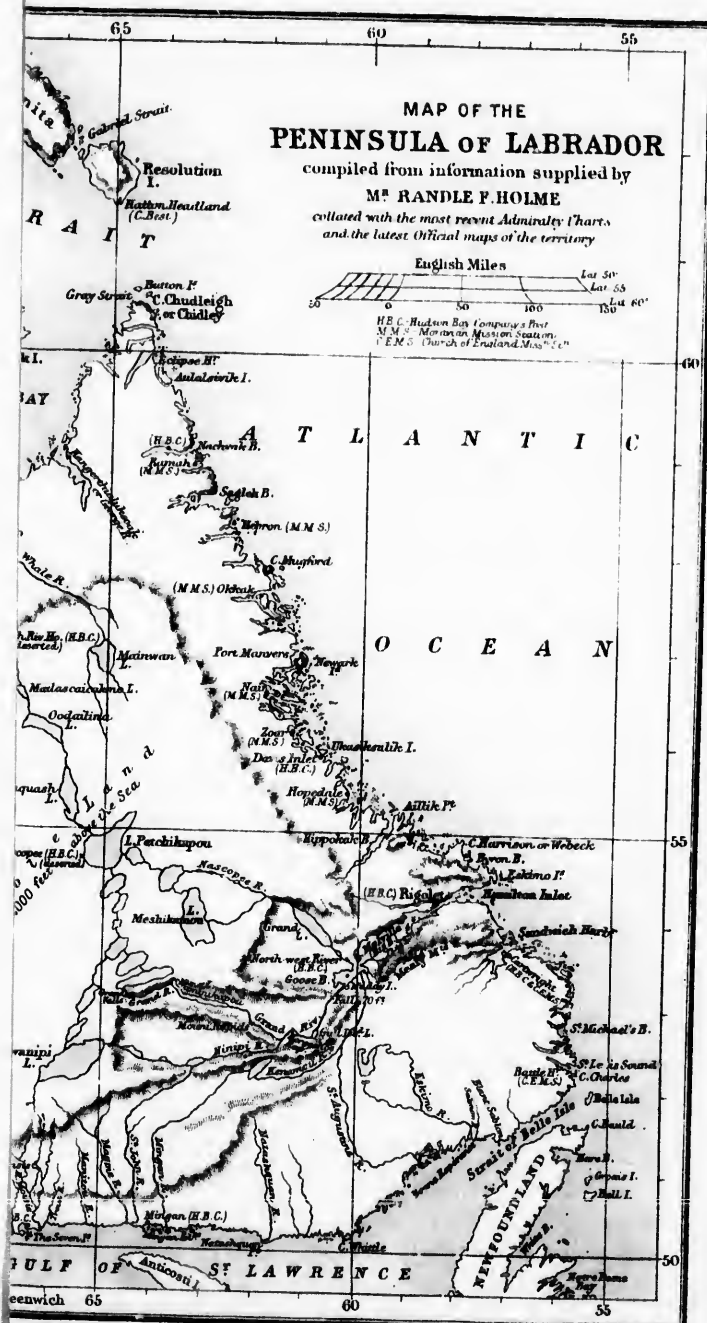


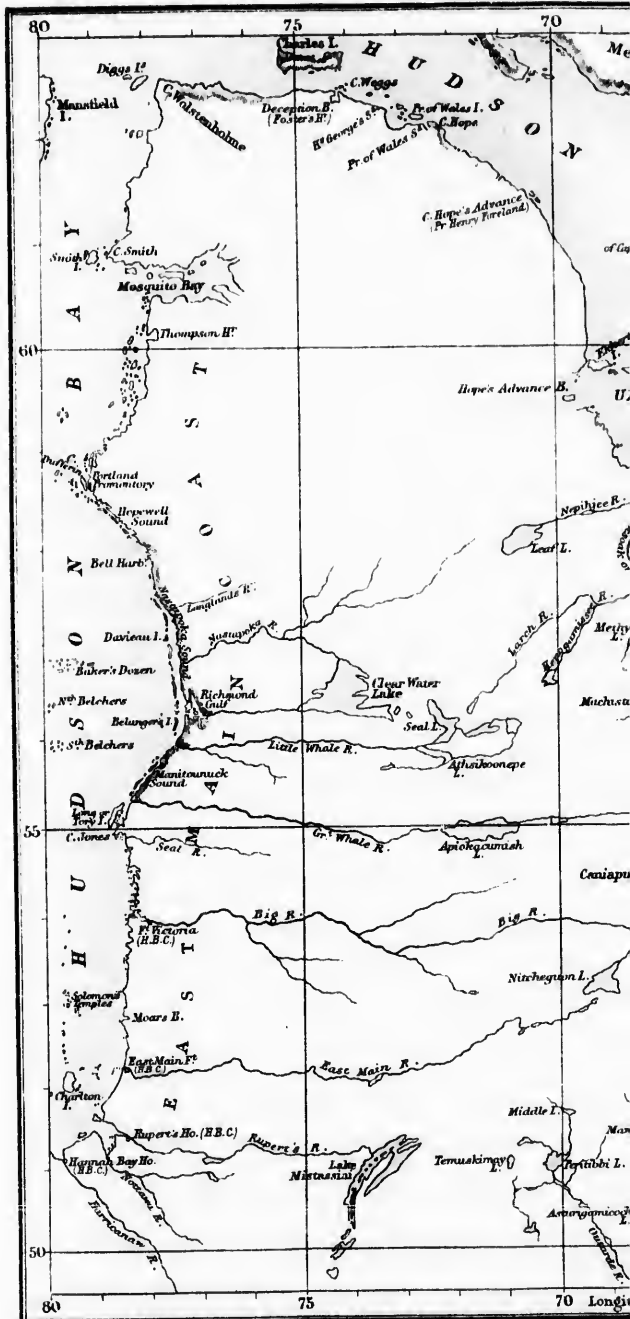
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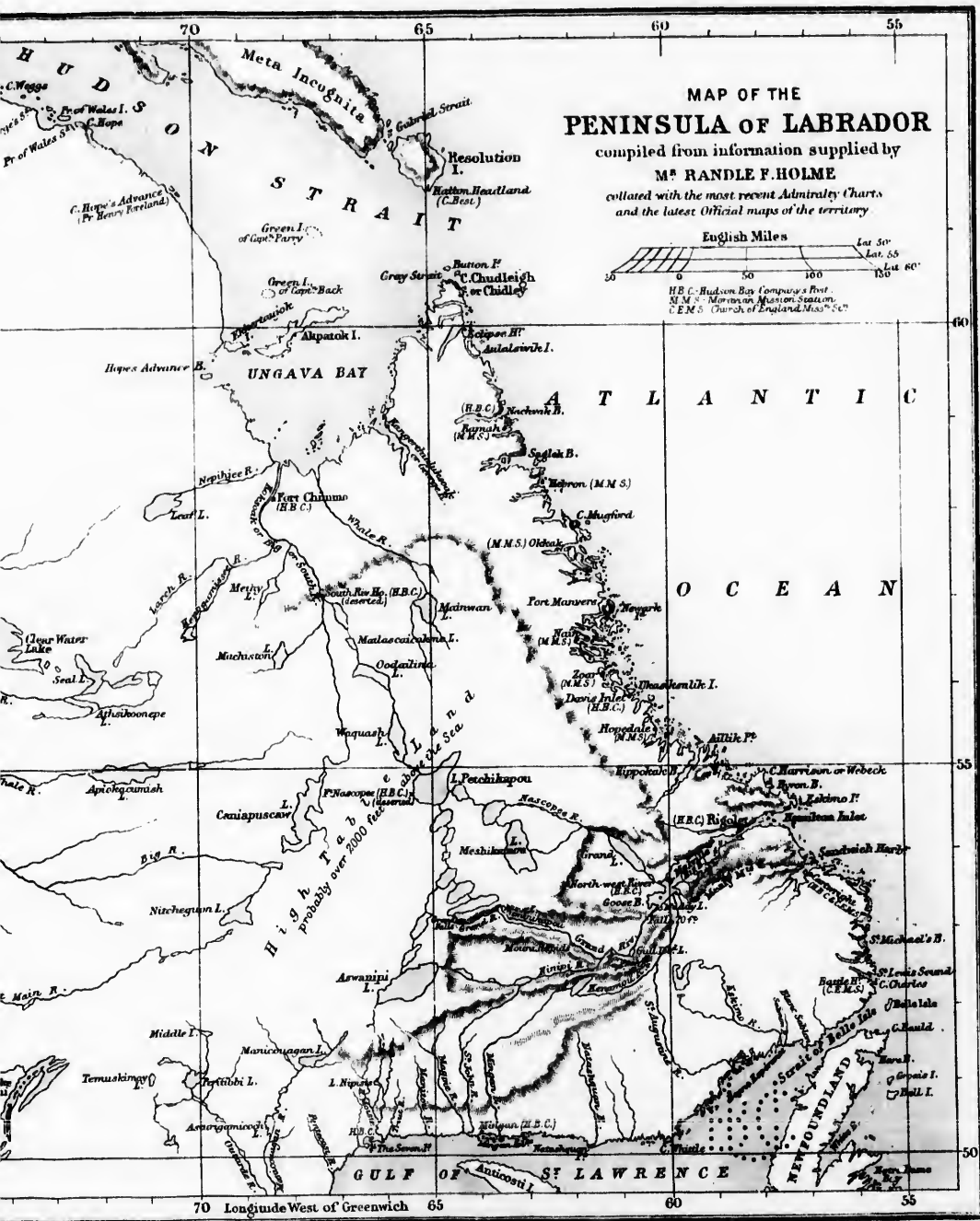
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H.B.C. Hudson Bay Company's Post
 M.M.S. Mission or Mission station
 H.M.S. Church of England, Missⁿ



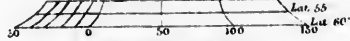




**MAP OF THE
PENINSULA OF LABRADOR**

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and the latest Official maps of the territory

English Miles



H.B.C. Hudson Bay Company's Post.
M.M.S. Marine Mission Station.
C.E.M.S. Church of England Mission.

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PROCEEDINGS
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ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
AND MONTHLY RECORD OF GEOGRAPHY.

A Journey in the Interior of Labrador, July to October, 1887.

By RANDLE F. HOLME.

(Read at the Evening Meeting, February 15th, 1888.)

Map, p. 260.

It is a curious fact that the part of the American Continent which is nearest to the British Isles, and on the same latitude, is of all that continent the least known. Labrador has been almost universally avoided. The reason for this is not far to seek. It is the same that explains why Newfoundland, the oldest of all British Colonies, is perhaps the least developed. Each of these countries was first sought by fishermen, who found the coast, of Labrador especially, a real "abomination of desolation." On the Labrador coast not a tree is to be seen. There is nothing there but bare rocks, and occasionally a little stunted grass. It is almost perpetual winter.

The reports of the fishermen and mariners, to whom this uninviting prospect was displayed, gave the country its character, and there has been created a false impression that the interior of the country is fairly sampled by the coast.

The Arctic current, with its icebergs and icy waters, freezes the coast, but has no effect on the inland. At a distance of not more than 12 miles from the coast there commences a luxuriant forest growth, which clothes the whole of the country, with the exception of a few spots, chiefly towards the north, called "barrens." These barrens are what we should call *moors*, and are the homes of vast herds of cariboo. The climate a few miles inland is totally different from that on the coast. A journey of 20 or 30 miles in summertime up the country from the sea is like passing from winter to summer.

Before entering upon any details of my recent journey, it will be as well to inquire to what extent Labrador is at present populated, and how far the interior has been explored.

The whole of the south and the greater part of the east coast is devoted in the summertime to the cod-fishery. For the purpose of this

fishery, large numbers of Newfoundlanders settle in the spring on the coast in villages, and return to Newfoundland in the autumn at the close of the fishing season. About the inlets and estuaries, and wherever any salmon are to be caught, there live a few British and Newfoundland emigrants, and a large number of Eskimos and half-breeds. These men spend the winter as well as the summer in the country, living, not in villages as the cod-fishermen do, but in scattered homesteads. Their employment consists in the summer of salmon-fishing, in the winter of trapping, and in the spring of seal-hunting. They never live far from the coast; but in the wintertime they sometimes walk considerable distances inland in search of fur. The pure Eskimos are not often found farther south than Hamilton Inlet. In that inlet, however, they are numerous.

On the east coast, north of Hamilton Inlet, are several Moravian mission and trading settlements. A Church of England mission-house is now being built at Cartwright in Sandwich Harbour. The first Church of England missionary who has spent a winter so far north as Sandwich Harbour is the Rev. Frank Colley, of Newfoundland, who has spent the last three winters there. There is also a Church of England mission-house at Battle Harbour, on an island in the Straits of Belle Isle. A Dissenting minister has recently settled in Hamilton Inlet.

There are Hudson's Bay Company's posts at Mingan on the south coast; at Cartwright, Rigolet, North-west river, Davis Inlet, and Nachvak on the east coast; and at Fort Chimmo in Ungava Bay.

The interior is inhabited by a considerable number of Red Indians, whose numbers are, however, ludicrously disproportionate to the enormous size of the country.

The Indians of Labrador are all of the Cree nation, but those who frequent the north coast call themselves Nascopes, and those on the south and east, Montagnais, or Mountaineers. They spend a few weeks in the spring of each year encamping near the Company's posts, either at Mingan, North-west river, or Fort Chimmo, where they meet the priest, and trade their furs for ammunition, clothes, and provisions; but for the rest their habits are entirely nomadic. They live in wigwams covered with birch-bark or deer-hide, round which they pile the snow in wintertime. Their canoes they also make of birch-bark, and in these in summertime they slowly move about. In winter, however, they walk enormous distances over the snow, although their snow-shoes are of a clumsy round pattern and do not facilitate walking as the elegant oblong Canadian ones do. During these journeys they drag behind them hand-sledges which are frequently very heavily loaded. Their sole occupation is trapping and hunting. The provisions which they obtain at the stores they generally devour in a few weeks, trusting thereafter for sustenance solely to their guns and traps. The only thing which they try to make last is tea, for which they have acquired a

great affection since the Company ceased to trade liquor with them. There is now a heavy Government fine upon any one treating an Indian or an Eskimo to drink. They live in families; each family generally possesses a small dog trained to hunt for porcupines, which, with ptarmigan, form their most reliable means of support.

The Eskimos about Hamilton Inlet are quite civilised. Higher up on the east coast they are less so, although they have the advantage of Moravian training. In the extreme north they are chiefly pagan, and absolutely uncivilised, eating all their food raw, and living in the winter in snow houses without fires. The Eskimos never go inland.

There is mail communication from Newfoundland between July and October as far north as Nain on the east coast. The steamer also goes as far west as Bonne Espérance on the south coast. Once during the winter a mail is sent by *Cometic** and dogs over the snow from Quebec.

The south of the country is extremely well watered, and the whole interior is dotted with large lakes. The Indians are consequently acquainted with a complete system of internal navigation, joining the Seven Islands, Mingan, and the mouth of the St. Augustine river on the south coast, with North-west river on the east, and Ungava on the north.*

Only two white men, however, other than officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, have until now ever made an inland voyage, so far as I have been able to ascertain. One is Père Lacasse, the Roman Catholic missionary to the Indians, who receives the various portions of his flock at Mingan, North-west river, and Ungava. He generally proceeds to these places by sea, but on one occasion he journeyed from Mingan to North-west river by the Mingan and Kenamon rivers, and from North-west river to Ungava by the Nasecopee and Waquash rivers.

The other is Professor Hind, who in 1861 journeyed up the river Moisie and back again. This was not, however, properly speaking, a journey in Labrador, but in the Canadian province of Quebec, the boundary between Labrador and Canada being Salmon river.†

Of Hudson's Bay Company officers, it is understood that Mr. Maclean in 1839 journeyed by river from Ungava to Lake Petehikapou, and on as far as the Grand Falls on the Grand (or Hamilton) river above Lake Waminikapou.

Sir Donald A. Smith, formerly a clerk in the Company's service in Labrador, once journeyed overland from Mingan to North-west river on the route subsequently followed by Père Lacasse.

But the most important point connected with the Labrador interior

* I conversed with an Indian, named Pierre Gaspé, who last spring came from Gaspé, on the south side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and reached North-west river by means of the St. John's, Nimpi, and Grand rivers.

† *Vide* 'Journal R.G.S.,' vol. xxxiv. p. 82.

is the Company's inland post, Fort Nascopee, which formerly existed on Lake Petchikapou. During the latter years when this post was used, a journey was made annually from North-west river in an inland boat up the Grand river, and through Lake Waminikapou. The men, about twenty in number, with an officer in charge, went up in the autumn with stores for their own use, and goods for trading purposes, and returned in the spring as soon as the inland navigation opened, leaving the post deserted during the summer months.

In 1864, however, this post was abandoned, and since that date the Grand river has not been navigated by a white man until last summer, when I ascended the river as far as Lake Waminikapou.

I left England on July 5th, accompanied by Mr. H. Duff, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and reached St. John's, Newfoundland, on July 13th. The first Labrador mail for the year had left shortly before we arrived. After waiting six days in Newfoundland, we caught the second mail. This was a small coastal steamer, the *Plover*, belonging to a St. John's firm. After touching at numerous ports on the east and north coast of Newfoundland, and on the south coast of Labrador, going as far west as Bonne Espérance, the *Plover* left us at Battle Harbour, in the south-east corner of Labrador, on July 24th. Here we changed into the *Lady Glover* mail steamer, which had left St. John's a few days before we arrived there, and had by this time made her first trip on the Labrador coast. The field ice on the coast had prevented her on that trip from going further north than Hamilton Inlet. On her next voyage, however, she was able to proceed as far north as Nain, her extreme point.

The *Lady Glover* carries a doctor paid by the Government for the benefit of the inhabitants of the coast. In this steamer we reached Rigolet in Hamilton Inlet on July 27th.

The voyage on the Newfoundland coast was warm and most enjoyable, and the scenery in many places exquisite. In the Straits of Belle Isle, however, we encountered thick fogs. On the Labrador coast it was cold, but clear and beautiful. The coast was bleak and dreary, without any vegetation whatever, but indented with a great number of superb natural harbours. On the Labrador coast, south of Hamilton Inlet, we touched at numerous ports, which were in many cases tiny settlements of not more than three or four houses.

We were armed with a letter of introduction, kindly obtained for us by an influential friend in London, from the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company, without which a journey inland is scarcely practicable. Mr. Keith Mackenzie, the gentleman in charge of the post at Rigolet, received us with the utmost hospitality, and here we were fortunate enough to meet with the missionary to the Indians, Père Lacasse, of whom mention has already been made.

We started to sail up the inlet in a small schooner belonging to the

Company. Twelve miles west of Rigolet lies Eskimo Island, the scene of a traditional battle between Indians and Eskimos, the two races having always been, and still being, hereditary foes. On this occasion the *casus belli* was as follows:—The Indians asserted that the Great Spirit had made an unmistakable sign by which to distinguish the territories of the two races; all that was covered with forest belonging to the Indians, and all that was barren being for the Eskimos; upon which issue they joined battle upon this island. This tradition is supported by my having found, when I went ashore there, about seventy Eskimo graves. These graves were made in the ordinary Eskimo custom, not being underground, although the soil was by no means deficient, but consisting of rough unhewn blocks of stone heaped together in an oblong form, the inside measurements being 2 feet by 1½ feet. Many of them had been disturbed by bears or wolves, but in most of them a skull and bones were lying.

A sail of two days brought us to the post at North-west river, at the head of the inlet. This is a subsidiary post to that at Rigolet, which is the head post of the district. It is now the furthest inland post in Labrador, and it is here that all the Indians, except those who go to Mingan or Ungava, bring their furs to trade in springtime.

This post is in charge of Mr. Walter West, and a considerable number of families, mostly half-breed Eskimos, live scattered about the head of the bay, engaged in salmon-fishing, seal-hunting, and trapping.

Most of the Indians had unfortunately gone off into the interior about a week before our arrival, and as the salmon-fishing season was at its height we found it impossible at first to obtain any men to accompany us; we spent therefore some very enjoyable time at the post.

We afterwards obtained the services and the boat of John Montague, a "planter" at North-west river, who had emigrated from Orkney some thirteen years ago, a fine, strong man of twenty-eight years of age, well acquainted with the head of the bay. John had passed several years at Ungava, and was therefore able to give me considerable information as to the character of the country in the north.

In his company Mr. Duff and I explored all the rivers that flow into the head of the bay, ascending them in most cases as far as they are navigable. They are as follows:—

Gudder's Bight River.—A deep stream about 50 yards wide at the mouth, navigable for a small boat for four miles, or for a canoe almost as far as the Mealy Mountains, in which the river has its source.

Kenamish River.—Very similar to the Gudder's Bight river, taking its source in the Mealy Mountains.

Kenamou River.—An important river, used as one of the routes from the south. It is a wide shallow stream coming through a break in the mountain range; navigable for boats for about 10 miles, for canoes probably to its source.

Travespines River, flowing into the Grand river, five miles from its mouth. The *Travespines* is navigable for boats for five miles, and is a rapid, narrow stream.

We also explored the shores of Goose Bay, Rabbit Island, and Muddy Lake.

Muddy Lake is joined to the river *Travespines* by a small brook. Unti' a few years ago the water in this brook, and in Muddy Lake, was perfectly clear; but recently a landslip, or perhaps a slight earthquake, took place, and opened a mud-spring in the brook. Since then the poisonous vapour of the mud-spring has rendered the brook impassable, and the waters of the entire lake have ever since been opaque and foul.

North-west River, so called, is properly speaking not a river at all, but merely a channel some 300 yards long, joining the Big Bay to a small lake three miles long, which is at its upper end joined by a similar short channel to the Grand Lake, which is 40 miles long. Into the Grand Lake flows the river *Nascopee*, used as a route to the north.

The expedition during which these observations were made occupied us from August 5th to August 19th. During that time the average minimum temperature between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. was $38\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit, the highest being 46° , on August 17th, and the lowest 30° , on August 9th, the temperature by day ranging as high as 70° to 80° .

Upon our arrival at *North-west river* after this expedition, Mr. Duff was compelled to return to England.

Being anxious, however, to make a further exploration of the Grand river, which is far the largest of the rivers flowing into the bay, I re-engaged John Montague, and also obtained the services of Flet, another Orkney emigrant. Flet was past the prime of life, and rather weakly after many years of semi-starvation; but I engaged him partly because there was no one else and another hand was necessary, and partly because he had formed one of the crew of the Company's inland boat on the last two occasions that the inland post had been used, and therefore knew the river to a certain extent.

John and I left *North-west river* on August 22nd, and reached the mouth of *Goose Bay river* in the evening. This was out of our way, but we had to call there for Flet. On August 23rd we were detained at *Goose Bay river* by a gale.

On August 24th we left *Goose Bay river* and started up the Grand river. We met three families of Indians near the river mouth, and we saw no other human being until we reached the same place on our way back a month later. We spent the night in an empty log-hut at High Point, on the south side of the river. On August 25th we reached the first falls by noon, and I spent a few hours in photographing them. These falls consist of two steps, the total fall being 70 feet.

The whole of August 26th was occupied with portaging the boat and

stuff to the head of the falls. The portage path consists of a steep ascent of 210 feet, followed by about half-a-mile level through the woods, and a descent of 140 feet.

A canoe would, of course, have been more suitable for work of this kind, but as my crew consisted of white men who were less accustomed to canoes, I had been compelled to take a boat. This had also certain advantages, as we were frequently able to sail, and moreover a boat is not so dependent upon the weather as a canoe, on a large river like this. The boat we had was an ordinary fisherman's dingey with two small masts; light as such boats go, but still almost more than three men could lift.

The boat was hoisted up the bank by means of a block and tackle attached to trees, and frequently shifted, dragged across the level piece, and lowered down the other bank. Then the stuff was carried over, piece by piece. On August 27th it rained incessantly. However, we made nearly 15 miles, and camped on the north side just below Sandy Banks.

Hitherto the river had been wide, the current fairly slack, and the banks sandy, and we had rowed or sailed most of the way. On August 28th these conditions became reversed, and from this point right up to Lake Waminikapou, with the exception of Gull Island Lake and some parts of the river near to it, the journey was one long struggle with the rapid water. Flet steered, being, as has been said, not very strong, while John and I tracked along the rocky bank the entire distance. The walking was often of the most terrible description, and frequently necessitated climbing over sheer rocks or heaps of fallen timber. Sometimes the character of the bank required us to cross the stream, an operation which generally cost us nearly a quarter of a mile.

On August 29th we reached the foot of Gull Island Rapid. This is the fiercest of the rapids on this river, though not the longest. Unfortunately a great deal of rain had fallen during the previous week, and consequently we found the water so high that an ascent of the rapid was impossible. We were therefore compelled to wait for two days, August 30th and 31st, during which the river fell to the extent of nearly two feet. We were the less annoyed at this delay as Gull Island Lake proved to be full of fine whitefish, large numbers of which we caught and dried.

On September 1st we ascended, with great difficulty, the Gull Island Rapid. For this it was necessary to entirely empty the boat which, steered by one man, was then step by step hauled up the rapid. The stuff was carried along the rocky shore. We camped on the shore immediately above the rapid. For nearly 15 miles above this rapid the river runs through a gorge, the mountain ranges coming close down to the river on each side.

On September 2nd we reached the Horseshoe Rapid, the current being

very strong the whole of the way. This rapid consists of three separate parts, and caused considerable difficulty. On September 3rd we came within sight of Ninipi Rapid, the largest rapid on the river. The banks are here extremely wild and rugged, and the forest has been burnt for many miles.

There flows into the Grand river at the Ninipi Rapid a small stream called Ninipi river, which is a favourite route of Indians between Mingan and North-west river.

On September 4th we passed the Ninipi Rapid.

On September 5th the stream was slacker, and we made 13 miles. On that day I got a shot at a large black bear, which we failed, however, to secure. Bears are commonly found where the forest has been burnt down, as burnt forest ground produces quantities of berries, the favourite food of those animals.

On September 6th we made $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the stream being fairly slack. On September 7th the current began to be stronger again, but we succeeded in making another $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles. On September 8th it rained the greater part of the day, which made the rocks very slippery to walk on. The stream was also very strong, and we consequently only made $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. On September 9th we passed the Mouni Rapids and reached Lake Waminikapou.

On September 10th we rowed about 20 miles up Lake Waminikapou. During the afternoon, however, a gale began to blow in our teeth, and, a heavy sea getting up, we found it impossible to proceed, and were compelled to put to shore, where we spent the night.

The expedition had thus far taken much longer than I had anticipated, partly owing to the height of the water, and partly to fallacious ideas as to the distances. The men had been quite unable to say how far it was, or how long it would take us, and I had expected to find Lake Waminikapou to be certainly less than 100 miles from the mouth of the river, whereas it is almost 150. In fact, in Professor Hind's 'Labrador,' vol. ii. p. 136, the Grand Falls of the river are said to be about 100 miles from the mouth. Now I had reliable information that these falls are 30 miles above Lake Waminikapou, and that the lake is 40 miles long. According to Professor Hind, therefore, the lake should be within 30 miles of the river-mouth.

Owing to these miscalculations our provisions were by this time running extremely short. We had for some days been on short rations, and on the night of September 10th we finished our pork. We had then nothing left but a small quantity of flour and some tea.

When, therefore, we were stopped on Lake Waminikapou by the gale, which appeared likely to last for some days, we had no option but to turn back, which we did, reaching the head of the First Falls in three days and a half. The boat and the remains of our baggage were taken over the portage path again, and that morning we ate the last remnants of our

food. We proceeded the same day as far as High Point, where we met with some Indians, who gave us porcupine and bread to eat.

The next night we encamped at Sandy Point, and on September 19th reached North-west river.

It was annoying to have to turn back when we did, as we were within 50 miles of the Grand Falls. Of this 50 miles 20 were in the still water of the lake, and it would not have been necessary to take all the baggage the other 30 miles. We might even have walked them if the river had turned out to be difficult. Indeed, we estimated that in another three or four days, had the gale abated, we should have reached the falls. But we failed to catch any fish in the lake, and there appeared to be nothing to shoot; and when, on the morning of September 11th, we found the gale blowing as strongly as ever, we considered that to proceed would mean starvation, while waiting would be little better.

The Grand Falls are said by the Labrador Indians to be haunted, and as they firmly believe that no one can look upon them and live, they are careful to avoid them. There is little doubt that only two white men have ever seen them: one is Maclean, whose expedition in 1839 was stopped by them, and the other is a Mr. Kennedy, who some thirty years ago was in charge of Fort Nascopee on Lake Petchikapou. Mr. Kennedy was guided to them by an Indian called Louis-over-the-Fire, who, being an Irroquois, does not entirely share the Labrador Indian superstitions. Louis came over from Montreal in the Company's service forty years ago, and has spent all his life since then in the Labrador interior. He was the pilot of the Company's inland boat to Nascopee during the last fifteen years that route was used. He speaks English well, and gave me considerable information with respect to the country. He is now unfortunately a cripple, or I should have engaged him as guide.

It may appear strange that during the many years the inland route to Nascopee was used, no officer of the Company, except Mr. Kennedy, should ever have been to the Grand Falls. When, however, it is noted that the route taken by the Company's men left the Grand river a short way above Lake Waminikapou and made a portage, about seven miles long, to the nearest point of the next lake, leaving the falls about 30 miles to the west, and that the men were paid by the day during the voyage, these considerations will sufficiently account for this apparent want of curiosity on the part of the officers in charge.

The height of the Grand Falls is not known, but there is little doubt that they are in certain respects the most stupendous falls in the world. The centre of Labrador, as is generally known, is a vast tableland, the limits of which are clearly defined, though of course the country intervening between this limit and the coast always consists, more or less, of a slope. Roughly speaking, it may be said that in the south and

north there is a more or less gradual slope from the height of land to the coast, while in the south-east the descent is sudden, and almost immediately after leaving the tableland there is reached a level which is but little above that of the sea. In the north-east portion the edge of the tableland approaches nearest to the coast,* while it trends considerably to the west in the rear of Hamilton Inlet. The most fertile part of the country is that which lies between the tableland and the sterile belt on the coast, though the height of land itself is by no means a desert. On the height of land there is found a succession of great lakes joined together by broad placid streams. When the streams of water reach the edge of the tableland, they of course commence a wild career down towards the sea. In the case of the Grand river this rapid descent commences with the Grand Falls, and almost the whole of the great drop to the sea-level is effected in the one waterfall.

The elevation of the Labrador tableland is given by Prof. Hind as 2240 feet. From this height the Moisie and Cold Water rivers descend to the sea by means of a considerable number of falls. But in the Grand river below Lake Waminikapou there is only one fall, viz. that which occurs 25 miles from the river-mouth. This fall is 70 feet. It is true that the whole of the river from Lake Waminikapou to the First Falls is rapid, but there is no place where there is any considerable drop, and indeed no place where it is necessary to take the boat out of the water.

Now the lake first above the Grand Falls is on the height of land. In the channels joining the various lakes above the falls there are no rapids and there is scarcely any stream.

It follows, assuming the elevation of the tableland on the east to be approximate to that on the south, that in the 30 miles beginning with the Grand Falls and ending with Lake Waminikapou, there is a drop of about 2000 feet.

Some of this drop is probably effected by the rapids immediately below the falls, but the greater part is no doubt made by the fall itself. The river is said by Maclean to be 500 yards broad above the falls, contracting to 50 yards at the falls themselves. It therefore seems probable that there is no other fall in the world of such volume of water so high, or of so great height with such volume of water.†

* My reasons for this belief are:—1. No rivers of any considerable size appear to debouch upon that portion of the coast. 2. High land is reported to be there seen near the coast.

† The greatest waterfall in the Yosemite valley is said to be 2550 feet high, but this is broken into three leaps, and, properly speaking, consists of three separate falls. The river is there said to be about 40 yards wide. This seems to be the only known fall that for the combination of height and volume can be compared to the falls on the Grand river; for, of other falls, Niagara, Zambesi, and Missouri, though of incomparably greater volume, are only 164 feet, 100 feet, and 87 feet high respectively, while none of the other falls that approach those on the Grand river in height can be compared to it in point of volume, being, in fact, little more than mountain torrents.

The map of the interior published by Prof. Hind in his book, has been generally accepted in maps since made, which are very meagre and often contradictory. The canoe route which he marks between Lake Aswanipi and Hamilton Inlet, is in its main features correct. But it is a mistake to suppose that the Grand river is the means of communication the whole way, more than half the distance consisting of the Ninipi river, which is a small tributary of the Grand river, and not more than one-eighth of its size. It is also a mistake to suppose that Lake Waminikapou, the Grand Falls, Lake Petchikapou, and the numerous intervening lakes, are on the line of communication between Lake Aswanipi and Hamilton Inlet.

Lake Petchikapou is not, as it is placed in Hind's map, on or about the same latitude as Hamilton Inlet, but just half-way between North-west river and Ungava. In most recent maps Hind's map has been departed from so far as to place this lake in its proper position.* But the logical consequence of this alteration has not been followed out; that is to say, the position of the Grand river, which flows out of that lake, has not been changed, though the position of the lake itself has been changed.† And with the Grand river must also be shifted that string of lakes which it connects, lying between Lakes Petchikapou and Waminikapou. Consequently that string of lakes, instead of lying east and west of one another, are almost north and south, which is clearly an all-important change in the configuration of the interior.

Lake Petchikapou can be reached from North-west river by the Nascopce river, as well as by the Grand river. That route is shorter but more difficult.

It should be also noted that the usual route from the south coast to the east coast is not, as might, from Prof. Hind's map, be supposed, that *via* Lake Aswanipi, but by the Mingan and Kenamou rivers, or by the St. John's, Ninipi, and Grand rivers. The Aswanipi route would generally be only used on the way to the north.

* On what grounds the alteration has been made in recent maps I do not know. I have no doubt, however, that the change is correct, on the following grounds, apart from the assertions of Indians acquainted with the interior. Lake Petchikapou is reached from North-west river not only by the Grand river, but also by the Nascopce river on the route to the north, as followed by Pêre Lacasse. This precludes the possibility of its being on the latitude of Hamilton Inlet, especially as, according to the Pêre, the route from North-west river to Ungava is fairly direct.

† Maclean, after travelling from Ungava to Lake Petchikapou, proceeded to try and discover the route (afterwards achieved) connecting Petchikapou and Hamilton Inlet, and succeeded in getting by water as far as the Grand Falls, when he turned back. This proves that it is the Grand river which connects Lakes Petchikapou and Waminikapou. For had there been any other water route leading out of the lake next above the Grand Falls, there is no doubt that Maclean would have proceeded by it, inasmuch as he was at his wit's end to discover some means of circumventing the Grand Falls, but failed to do so, and consequently retraced his steps.

While on the subject of the map of Labrador, it may be remarked that the settlement called Southbrook, generally marked at the head of Hamilton Inlet by the mouth of the Kenamou river, may in future maps be omitted, as the sea has there largely encroached, and some years ago the last vestige of the village was obliterated.

The country between the edge of the tableland and the coast is hilly, and often mountainous, and almost entirely covered with forest, that is to say, with various species of coniferous trees, birch, and willow. Berries, especially the whortleberry and cranberry, are numerous and excellent, especially where the forest has been burnt.

In some places on the south side, about the head of the bay, the Mealy Mountains are barren, and were formerly frequented by cariboo. In order to find any quantity of these animals now, however, it is necessary to go further north.*

The most common birds are wild geese, black ducks, shell-birds, divers, loons, plover, and, near the coast, curlew.

The salmon fishery, which a few years ago was unlimited, has now almost entirely failed in Hamilton Inlet and on most of the east coast, though it still prospers in Ungava Bay. Salmon peel and trout are still sufficiently numerous in all parts. White-fish and "suckers" are also very common, the former being admirable eating, the latter very coarse.

The most plentiful mineral appears to be iron. The sand of almost all the rivers flowing into the head of the bay is black with this mineral. An attempt was recently made on the Kenamou river to turn this to account, but the scheme failed.

Labradorite, or Labrador spar, is very common about Hamilton Inlet, huge boulders of it lying about the beach. I sailed from North-west river to Rigolet in a schooner entirely ballasted with this beautiful stone.

The curse of this country in summer is the flies, that is, mosquitoes and black flies. It is probable that these pests are worse in this country than in any other. Were it not for them, the country would be most enjoyable in summertime. The summer lasts for a good three months, from the middle of June to the middle of September, during which it is like an English summer without the oppressively hot days. There are small kitchen-gardens at North-west river, Rigolet, and other places on the shores of Hamilton Inlet, which meet with very fair success. As, however, they are not able to plant till June, in which month the snow generally clears away, their season is thrown rather late. I ate new potatoes at Rigolet in September. There is one cow on the east coast,

* The following is a list of the fur commonly trapped in Labrador:—Black bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx (or mountain cat), red fox, white fox, blue fox, silver fox, otter, beaver, martin, musquash, mink.

in the south-west corner of Hamilton Inlet, and no other cattle of any kind. The reason for this is that Eskimo dogs are a necessity, and are kept in large quantities, and owing to their ferocity it is almost an impossibility to keep any other kind of animal.

In conclusion, if travellers are not deterred by the flies, which can, to a certain extent, be counteracted by mosquito nets at night, and other appliances by day, and to which, like all other troubles, man gets wonderfully inured, the Labrador interior affords great interest of natural scenery, and from the almost total absence of information and maps opens up a field of enterprise which has not hitherto been explored. New and superior steamers are being built for the coastal service from St. John's, and will begin to run this summer.

It is, however, right to add that the country affords few inducements to the sportsman, in the summer at least, either as regards shooting or fishing, as compared with many other more accessible parts of the world. Of the winter I cannot from my own experience speak; but from all I could gather, any one spending a winter in Labrador, which under the auspices of the Hudson's Bay Company would be by no means a comfortless thing to do, would find sport of an exceptionally attractive character, while he might add considerably to our geographical knowledge; for it may readily be understood that a man travelling over a frozen river behind a team of perhaps twenty dogs, will cover the ground with greater ease and speed than he who painfully hauls a boat against a rapid current.

As an agricultural or pastoral country Labrador has no prospects; and unless its mineral resources are some day turned to account, I cannot see that the country will ever be very different from what it is now.

But it is this very quality of unattractiveness to the colonist that renders the country invaluable to the student of nature or of anthropology. Labrador is a kind of Pompeii of the New World. It is there, perhaps, alone that the unadulterated Red Indian is now to be found. The country of this fortunate section of an unfortunate race has so little to offer the progressive European, that the forests and their inhabitants have been left to their primeval owners. It is true that the advent of the Hudson's Bay Company has brought them a few things to strengthen them in their warfare with nature animate and inanimate, and that the Indians have probably all been converted to Christianity, although they have retained many of their old superstitions intact. But on the east coast, and, so far as I am aware, on the south and north coasts also, no instance is known of Indians having intermixed either with whites or Eskimos, although unions between the two latter are extremely common. This interesting race is therefore, I believe, found in Labrador in a state far more primitive than in any other part of the continent of North America.

During my expedition on the Grand river I took the following meteorological notes:—

Date.	Time.	Minimum Temp. in last 12 Hours.	Present Temp. in Shade.	Aneroid.	Place.
Aug. 29..	8 a.m.	42	51	30 1	Gull I. Lake.
" 30..	"	38	45	30 2½	" "
" 31..	"	35	52	30 0½	Gull I. "
Sept. 1..	"	54	59	29 9½	" "
" 2..	"	53	59	29 7¾	Head of Gull I. Rapid.
" 3..	"	..	52	29 7½	Horseshoe Rapid.
" 4..	"	34	45	29 9¼	Foot of Ninipi Rapid.
" 5..	"	38	53	29 7¾	Above Ninipi Rapid.
" 6..	"	49	64	29 5½	13 miles further.
" 7..	"	51	..	29 3¼	12½ miles further.
" 8..	"	51	54	29 0½	12½ miles further.
" 9..	"	41	53	29 5¾	6½ miles further.
" 10..	"	43	50	29 4	Lake Waminikapou, south end.
" 11..	"	38	42	29 8	Middle of ditto.
" 12..	"	35	46	29 9½	10 miles below ditto.
" 13..	"	38	42	29 8	Ninipi Rapid.
" 14..	"	39	52	29 7½	Gull I. Lake.
" 15..	"	43	Head of First Falls.
" 16..	"	41	43	30 0½	High Point.
" 17..	6 a.m.	25	28	30 2¼	Sandy Point.
" 18..	8 a.m.	34	North-west River.

FURTHER ANEROID OBSERVATIONS TAKEN WHILE DESCENDING THE GRAND RIVER, LABRADOR, FROM LAKE WAMINIKAPOU.

Date.	Time.	Distance from Lake Waminikapou in miles.	Name of Place.	Aneroid.	Probable number of feet below level of Lake Waminikapou.
Sept. 13..	4.30 p.m.	0	Foot of L. Waminikapou	29 8¼	0
"	5.10 "	4	" "	29 8¾	50
"	5.30 "	9	" "	29 9	75
"	6 "	12	Middle of Monni Rapids	29 9	100
Sept. 14..	8.15 a.m.	12	Foot of "	29 9¼	100
"	9 "	17	" "	29 9½	100
"	9.30 "	19½	" "	29 9½	100
"	10 "	23	" "	29 9½	100
"	10.30 "	25	" "	29 9½	100
"	11 "	27	" "	29 9½	100
"	11.30 "	28½	" "	29 9½	100
"	1.30 p.m.	"	" "	29 9½	100
"	2.30 "	34	Cockatoo Island..	30 0	100
"	2.40 "	"	" "	29 8¼	100
"	3 "	35½	" "	29 8	100
"	3.30 "	39	Slack water "	29 8¼	125
"	4 "	42	" "	29 8¼	125
"	5 "	50	" "	29 8	125
"	5.30 "	53	" "	29 8	125
Sept. 15..	8.30 a.m.	53	" "	29 8	125
"	9.20 "	56	Head of Ninipi Rapid..	29 8¼	125
"	9.30 "	57	Foot of " "	29 8¼	150

below the snow, the temperature being sufficiently low to prevent the snow melting. In the interior of Newfoundland not much could be done in the way of agriculture. Those fishermen who lived on the coast and had farms got on the best, but they could not compete with Manitoba and other parts. Newfoundland was at present separated from the Dominion of Canada, having its own Governor, corresponding directly with the Imperial Government. It was quite an open question whether it would not be strengthened if it were joined to the Dominion of Canada. The country itself was rather like a very large ship, from which fish could be caught; certain minerals could be found in the interior, but directly they were taken out they were all sent away, so that although a great deal of money was made in Newfoundland the people themselves were poor, and as a rule, those who emigrated from England would find that they would do better in the central parts of Canada than in Newfoundland itself. At the same time the country had many attractions for those who had spent years there. The climate might be hard, but it was decidedly healthy, and was not all fog as some people seemed to think. Just in the Strait of Belle Isle it was foggy, and on the south coast it was foggy in the summer, but during the winter there was no fog. In the interior and on various parts of the coast the summer was beautiful. Though the salmon fishery failed last summer, yet that fishery was a very variable one, and next summer it might be good. Any gentleman going out there for sport in the months of August, September, and October, would certainly get good trout fishing, and probably good salmon fishing, especially if he had a yacht to visit different parts of the country, and if he went into the interior in the latter part of September, and came out before the end of October, he would have as good cariboo shooting as in any part of the world.

General Dashwood said that last summer he spent two months on the same part of the coast as Mr. Holme had visited, but he went no farther north than Sandwich Bay. All the white men there were from the south of England, and some of them lived there all the year round. One thing that struck him as a very great hardship on the old English settlers was that the Hudson's Bay Company, who had posts along the shore, laid claim to the exclusive right of killing salmon in the sea and also in the tidal portions of rivers. As far as he knew the right of fishing in the salt water was vested in the public, and the right of fishing in the tidal portion of rivers was vested in the Crown. But the Hudson's Bay Company claimed exclusive right to fish all along on many parts of the coast. They had fixed nets, and supplied the men with a certain amount of gear, and charging a rent, in the form of a portion of the fish, for the right of fishing those posts. If a man found all his gear himself, the Company took one-sixth of his catch. He himself happened to be a Justice of the Peace for Newfoundland, and he took the part of the people. He should have done so in any case. There were no members of Parliament on that coast of Labrador, and the people said if they did not do what the Company told them, their posts would be taken away. He had brought this to the notice of the Newfoundland Government, and he believed that next summer steps would be taken to put an end to it. He was armed with a letter of introduction from the Hudson's Bay Company, but did not use it. He found that every river that was not preserved by nature was more or less barred. He wrote to the agent of the Company at Sandwich Bay, calling his attention to illegal netting, especially in one river, where the netting was supplied by the Company and almost barred the stream, but the agent told the people not to mind what was said. In former days cod-fishing was carried on entirely with hook and line, with herrings, squib, or caplin for bait, but some very sharp men invented cod-traps, which ran out with wings to an enormous distance. A man in a boat who caught a fish that was too small threw it back again, but the traps did not, and the consequence was that the cod fisheries had

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been very bad for the last two or three years.' Another result was that the people, instead of working hard in their boats, sat with their hands in their pockets, and so became demoralised. The interior of Newfoundland was not an agricultural country. The fine agricultural land which was sometimes described was rocks and bog, and the timber scrub. The other day on board a steamer he met the special commissioner of a London newspaper, who in his account said that in the interior the land was magnificent, and that any number of fortunes could be made there; but the truth was that the land there was very inferior. It can grow potatoes, oats, and vegetables, and help a fisherman to live, but it could not compete with Manitoba as an agricultural district.

Mr. HOLME said that though Labrador might not be in a perfectly satisfactory state with the Hudson's Bay Company, it would be much worse without it. If it were not for the Company there would be *neither law nor order* in the country. It was true that a government court-house—a ship—annually went round the coast, but a court which only called in for about ten minutes in each year was not of much force. More than this, the Company took the place of Poor Guardians. There were thousands of cases in which the people would have starved if it had not been for the Hudson's Bay Company, which supplied them with food and other necessaries, and kept them going without any possibility of ever being paid for what they gave.

The PRESIDENT, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Holme, said that Labrador was evidently not a hospitable country, or very inviting to English travellers. The falls of the Grand River must be very stupendous if they were of anything like the magnitude that Mr. Holme had suggested. He confessed he was somewhat sceptical on that point. Judging from the aneroid observations given in the paper, he should say that Lake Waminikapou must be 700 or 800 feet above the sea, and the authority for 2240 feet as the height of the tableland was doubtful. Anything like a fall of 2000 feet was hardly conceivable.

The vote of thanks having been agreed to, the meeting adjourned.

