

PART IV

HUDSON BAY

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 28

PART IV.

APPENDIX A.

REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENT F. J. A. DEMERS, COMMANDING
CHURCHILL, 19th SEPTEMBER, 1913, TO 4th JULY, 1914.

CHURCHILL, December 20, 1913.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W. Mounted Police,
Regina, Sask.

SIR,—I have the honour to report as follows for the period since my last report dated September 19, 1913.

The ss. *Nascopie* returned to Churchill on September 27, after discharging cargo at Moose Factory; on this—her second visit—she picked up all the fur from this district of the Hudson's Bay Company with the exception of their Chesterfield Inlet post.

I forwarded my mail by the kindness of Captain Meikle of the *Nascopie* and the vessel cleared for St. John's, Newfoundland, on September 29.

On September 30, the Hudson's Bay Company sent a coast boat with supplies to Chesterfield Inlet, these being the only supplies shipped to that point since September, 1912. The crew consisted of Eskimo. By courtesy of the manager I was able to send a few supplies to the detachment at Fullerton, but had to confine myself to a total of one ton. Mr. Leden (Norwegian explorer) also secured accommodation on this boat to Chesterfield.

On October 1, the very much overdue auxiliary schooner (Hudson's Bay Company) arrived here. She is a new boat, called *Fort Churchill*, she will carry about 70 tons of freight, and is fitted up for carrying a few passengers. She came direct from England, had a stormy passage, and took 37 days to reach Churchill. This is the boat which the company had intended having here before the arrival of the *Nascopie* and which was to have supplied all the outlying posts as well as take the police supplies to Fullerton.

All these arrangements came to grief, through her late appearance, and on October 4, she left for York Factory, to winter there. The Hudson's Bay Company have, as a result, had a disastrous year, their post at Chesterfield has received nothing, York Factory has only received a small portion of the supplies intended for that place, whilst the stores for Severn, Winisk, and Trout Lake are still at Churchill.

On November 16, Mr. Leden, a Hudson's Bay Company employee (half-breed) and his wife with two Eskimo arrived at Churchill with a sled and 3 dogs. Mr. Leden reports the wrecking of the coast boat, previously mentioned, on October 10, near Egg Island, about 100 miles north of Churchill. The cargo was damaged by water, but safely beached, and the whole party camped on the spot, the weather being as bad as possible and intensely cold.

Later, on October 13, an Eskimo arrived at their camp, he was walking into Churchill for help for the whaleboat party, which left here on September 6 for Chesterfield, the boat having been completely wrecked and all the contents lost on the same date as the coastboat, 10 miles farther north. J. Oman (the half-breed) in charge of this party had a very trying time, he was accompanied by his wife, and was entirely out of food, and if the Eskimo he sent out for help had not fallen in with Mr. Leden's party, I have no doubt that Oman and his wife would both have perished from exposure and starvation. It is thus most providential that the coastboat was wrecked

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south instead of north of the smaller boat. Oman and his party then moved down to Mr. Leden's camp, and here their hardships ceased, for they came across herds of barren land caribou, and killed all that they required.

The weather throughout September and October was terrible, gale after gale was experienced, accompanied towards the end of September by blinding snowstorms. The winter closed down early in October, several weeks earlier than usual. This found me quite unprepared. I sent a party out deer hunting on September 30, they left in a whaleboat and went 20 miles north, here they met with the bad weather, and with ice rapidly forming on the shores, they had to haul the boat above the high-water mark and leave it there until next summer, they having to walk back to barracks. The *Nascopie* was the only steamer to call at Churchill this year. No doubt the harbour works at Nelson accounts for this. I was however instructed that a later steamer would bring in the coal, whaleboats and other supplies. Day after day went by, and I had to keep my launch and boats in readiness for the expected steamer, in spite of the fact that ice was forming in the river and that the navigation of small craft could only be accompanied by some risk. It would be well to send all police supplies by the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer, which is the only boat which can be depended upon to call here.

DETACHMENTS.

As previously reported I received mail from Fullerton on July 11, bringing their reports up to the end of May. I sent mail by both the wrecked whaleboat and coastboat, but this did not reach its destination. On November 26, Mr. Hall (Hudson's Bay Company) of Chesterfield Inlet arrived at Churchill from that place, with one Eskimo and one train of dogs, he reports that his post is almost out of provisions and ammunition, and that it will be necessary to freight supplies to keep his post going.

He returned to Chesterfield on December 2, with 3 trains of dogs, taking a little mail, and also instructions to the detachment at Fullerton. Mr. Hall reports that all the Eskimo with whom he came in contact, are well provided for in the way of food and winter clothing. He did not stop at either of the Police houses at Ranken Inlet and Cape Eskimo, passing them a few miles inland. Sergeant Edgenton, unaware of Mr. Hall's departure for Churchill, not being able to communicate with him from the time navigation closes until the inlet can be crossed on ice in December, wrote a letter to the Acting Quartermaster Sergeant at Churchill, this is dated September 20, in it he states that both members of the detachment are well, but running short of provisions. He reports that an American firm have opened a trading post at Fullerton, and have built a house and store there. Sergeant Edgenton is obtaining provisions from these people. The schooner *A. T. Gifford* (Captain Wing) is wintering at Marble Island off Ranken Inlet and Captain Wing is trading at that point, and as the Hudson's Bay Company are without supplies at Chesterfield, the opposition on both sides of them should have a good winter. The Roman Catholic Mission at Chesterfield also suffered by the general breakdown of arrangements, but have sufficient to carry them on until next summer.

PORT NELSON.

I sent Reg. No. 5526 Constable Rogers, C.E., to Port Nelson on November 13, with two natives and two trains of dogs, the distance was covered in five days, this party returned to Churchill on December 4, accompanied by Sergeant Walker, R.H., of the Nelson detachment, whose time expires in February next, but owing to the lack of N.C. officers in this division, and the necessity of keeping an experienced man at Nelson, I sent him back to his detachment, instead of sending him to Regina for his discharge.

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DISCIPLINE.

One case of breach of discipline occurred, otherwise the conduct of N.C. officers and constables is good.

HEALTH.

The health of all members of the division is very satisfactory. One of my employed natives was off duty for a week with an injured hand, but is now returned to duty. Prisoner Will was off work from October 3 to 10, and as his condition gave Acting Assistant Surgeon Doyle some cause for anxiety, at the doctor's request, I had Will moved to his quarters, where he had careful attention and speedily recovered.

LAUNCHES AND BOATS.

Owing to the non-arrival of steamers, I was forced to keep my launch and boats ready for use until the last moment; winter set in remarkably early, and the work of hauling boats up the beach to winter quarters was very hard, the boats, rope and tackle becoming thickly coated with ice, the boats having to be hauled through deep snow drifts; much credit is due to the engineer, Constable Joyce, J. B., upon whom the brunt of this work fell. Employed Native "Joe" also worked splendidly under most trying conditions. My other natives were all away on the abortive hunting trip mentioned above, I was consequently very short of men. Considerable damage was done by a coastboat, the property of the Hudson's Bay Company. I was using this boat for hauling coal from the east side of the river at the time; on the night of October 10 she broke from her moorings during a hurricane, and was washed by the wind and tide on to the spot where my canoes were secured, completely destroying one and carrying the other away, the Coastboat became a total wreck and is now being used for firewood.

BUILDINGS.

The new dog kennel has been completed; it will hold 18 dogs and is a great improvement on the old kennel.

The porch leading to the office has been sealed, and flooring has been put down, and when this work is completed a good room will be available either for use as an office or storeroom.

FUEL.

It was extremely fortunate that I was able to make arrangements with the Hudson's Bay Company for obtaining their coal, as previously reported. This is however, insufficient for the whole winter September to May, and I am economizing in every possible way; I have had wood stoves placed in the office and guard-room. Wood is being hauled to barracks from a gully about 2 miles distant; later on it will be hauled from the east side of the river, as in former years.

FRESH MEAT SUPPLY.

On October 18 I sent two natives out for a seven days' hunt; they returned on the sixth day, having killed 35 deer; on the following day I sent out all my natives, with four trains of dogs to haul in this meat, and to kill more deer if possible. They returned on October 29 after killing 45 more deer. Four trips with three dog trains were made, before this meat was all hauled to barracks. The deer were passing south in large bands, within 15 miles of the Hudson's Bay Company's post; everybody profited by their proximity, Eskimo, Indians, Hudson's Bay Company and police.

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DOGS.

I have no casualties to report amongst my older dogs; I sent a train of six dogs to Nelson for the use of that detachment; this train consists of the pups raised by the police last year, which have turned out splendidly. The young pups mentioned in my last report are not doing well, they developed mange late in the fall, which it was impossible to eradicate, owing to the cold weather setting in; several have died and it is doubtful whether I shall raise more than two.

INDIANS AND ESKIMO.

The Chipewyans are divided into two parties this year, one party being camped northwest of Churchill, about five days' travel, and the other about four days southwest of Churchill. Both parties are doing exceptionally well, they obtained ample deer for meat, using the skins for clothing and tents. The Eskimo are scattered along the coast north of Churchill, and are also doing better than usual. I do not expect to hear of any cases of destitution this year.

FUR.

Indians and Eskimo are having one of the best years on record, obtaining several silver and black foxes, as well as white and coloured foxes in large numbers. In the immediate vicinity of Churchill, the fur season is a complete failure.

PATROLS.

Reg. No. 5526 Constable Rogers, C. E., accompanied by Indian "Bluecoat" and employed native "Willybuck" left for Port Nelson on November 13 with two trains of dogs; on arrival at Nelson "Bluecoat" was afraid of the large number of white men, this was probably assisted by the noise of the engine at work there. "Bluecoat" becoming frightened left Nelson without warning, and came by himself to Churchill, only taking four days to make this journey. Sergeant Walker and Constable Rogers spent several days looking for him, and when they were satisfied that he had returned to Churchill, the patrol, accompanied by Sergeant Walker, returned to Churchill, arriving here on December 4. Sergeant Walker returned to his detachment on December 10, accompanied by natives "Willybuck" and "Hayward" and two trains of dogs; the two natives will return to Churchill.

A patrol will be leaving for Split lake, on or about December 22. Reg. No. 5309 Constable Joyce, J.B. will be in charge, A. C. Will—destitute—will be sent out with this patrol. Messrs. Pritchard and Hope, officials of the Manitoba Government will also accompany this patrol, "Bluecoat" again acting as guide.

I am sending an extra train of dogs to the shelter house south of the plains to assist in hauling dog feed to stock that house with emergency supplies and dog feed.

GENERAL REMARKS.

This district is very quiet, there being no crime to report. The weather during September and October was exceptionally bad, the gales and hurricanes being remarkable for their frequency. The principal damage done here was the destruction of the old wooden beacon, north of the ruined Fort Prince of Wales, and quite a landmark. I have reported separately upon this subject for the information of the Marine Department.

The Churchill river was crossed opposite barracks on the ice on November 10, four weeks earlier than last year; November and December have, however, been pleasant months, and milder than October, a few showers of rain were experienced as late as December 2. Mr. Leden—the explorer—is at present boarding with the police, he is

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employed by the Department of the Interior. Vouchers for his expenses will be forwarded monthly for collection. Most of his scientific instruments were either damaged or lost when the coastboat was wrecked, so he will not be able to proceed north until he obtains a further supply from civilization.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. A. DEMERS,

Commanding "M" Division.

CHURCHILL, MAN., 16th March, 1914.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W. Mounted Police,
Regina, Sask.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report of "M" Division, to cover the period 21st December, 1913 to 15th March, 1914.

The usual mail patrol left for Split Lake on 23rd December, Reg. No. 5309 Constable Joyce, J.B., being in charge, he was accompanied by A. C. Will, a destitute, he being the last of the party of three who arrived at Churchill on 6th January, Constable Joyce, J.B., being in charge, he was accompanied by A. G. Will, a destitute, with the intention of proceeding north to a supposed copper mine. Messrs. Pritchard and Hope, the Manitoba Government officials, who have been in the district since March, 1913, and who have resided at the barracks for the greater portion of this period, did not avail themselves of the opportunity of travelling with the police patrol. They left the barracks on 22nd December and resided at the Hudson's Bay Company's post, so that they could the better regulate the arrangements the company were making for transporting them to Split Lake, en route for Winnipeg. They eventually left for that destination on 27th December.

The Hudson's Bay Company at York Factory have found it necessary to freight supplies from Churchill to York by dog trains, the latter post are running short of provisions, thus communication between the two places is frequent this winter, the majority of the private mail reaching Churchill through that agency.

I might remark that owing to the police patrol coming direct from Le Pas, and not touching Norway House as in former years, the private mail is consequently delayed at Norway House. The Hudson's Bay Company have yet another misfortune to add to the long list sustained in 1913. The auxilliary schooner *Fort Churchill* which was wintering at York, broke from her moorings and was carried away by the tide and ice, and no trace of her can be found. Parties of Eskimo and Indians are out searching the coast north and south of York, and a reward has been offered to the man who locates her. This is a very serious loss to the company, all their outposts in this district, depending upon her for their very much delayed 1913 supplies, which still remain at Churchill. Inspector French arrived here on 20th January, with official mail and the money for the annual treaty payments, he was accompanied by Reg. No. 4687 Corp. Jones, J.G., returning, off leave; Reg. No. 5532 Constable White, R.J.S., on transfer to "M" Division, and Special Constables Spence, McGillvray and Bancroft, Constable Joyce also returning with this party, which had six trains of dogs.

Inspector French with three special constables left here on February 2 on his return to Le Pas, I sent one "M" Division train of dogs as far as the 2nd Patrol house, south of the plains, thus helping them over the worst part of the trail.

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The district is very quiet and there is no crime to report.

DETACHMENTS.

Fullerton, a Hudson's Bay Company's packet arrived from Chesterfield Inlet on March 9, taking 37 days to make the trip.

Employed Eskimo "Oog-joug" of the Fullerton detachment with one train of dogs accompanied the packet. Reg. No. 4103 Sergeant Edgenton was proceeding to Churchill with them, but one day south of Chesterfield he was taken ill, and had to be taken back to Chesterfield, where he remains and is cared for by the members of the Roman Catholic Mission. Mr. Hall of the Hudson's Bay Company who was in the party, tells me that in his opinion, Sergeant Edgenton was suffering from ague, and for a time was seriously ill, but that he was on the road to recovery when Mr. Hall left for Churchill.

I am forwarding under separate cover all the reports from this detachment.

Both Sergeant Edgenton and Constable Conway will return to Churchill by whale-boat in June.

Port Nelson. Reg. No. 3829 Sergeant Walker, R.H., patrolled to Churchill, arriving here on February 22 with one Indian and the police dog team. I am forwarding report of this detachment under separate cover. Sergeant Walker was time expired on February 25, when he took his discharge.

I left Churchill on March 1 for Port Nelson, accompanied by Corporal Jones, and employed natives "Joe" and "Willybuck" with three trains of dogs, we reached Nelson on March 6.

I left Corporal Jones in charge of the detachment, and on the 10th returned to Churchill with the two natives, arriving there on the 14th.

DISCIPLINE.

The conduct of all members of the division is good.

HEALTH.

Most of the members of the division stationed here, have suffered from heavy colds, and have been placed off duty by Acting Assistant Surgeon Doyle, but soon recovered, a few cases of frostbite have also required medical attention.

DOGS.

I have two casualties to report amongst my older dogs, both of which occurred during the patrol to Split Lake, one was accidentally poisoned by strychnine at the Split Lake detachment by the constable in charge there, having occasion to bring some poisoned bait to his detachment, as an exhibit in a case he was investigating. Inspector French, who was at Split Lake at the time, informs me that no blame can be placed on anyone. The other dog died of exhaustion on the return trip, he was in a train being driven by an Indian, and I think must have been injured.

I brought all the police dogs back from Nelson, with the exception of two which have distemper, the dog feed question at Nelson is rather serious, I therefore thought it advisable to keep the dogs at Churchill during the summer.

"Oog-joug" reports that two dogs died during his journey south from Fullerton, I have given him two of the Churchill dogs to return with.

I have been unable to raise any of the pups mentioned in my previous report, they were quite unable to cope with the extremely cold weather, in the condition to which they were reduced by the mange.

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INDIANS AND ESKIMO.

Parties of both are continually arriving at the H.B. Co.'s post to trade; they are both having a good season, the Eskimo especially obtaining plenty of deer. No cases of destitution having occurred up to the present..

Two Indians "Bluecoat" and "Sandy Ellis" employed by the police to go to Split lake—the former as guide, and the latter as dog driver, were troublesome. They performed their duties well to Split Lake, and all went well on the return trip until the patrol reached Paddle Portage—about half way. "Bluecoat" then disappeared and was not seen again until the patrol reached Churchill. He (Bluecoat) arrived two days ahead of the party. Ellis remained with them a few hours longer, but at the next night camp, he also went ahead and arrived at Churchill a day ahead of the patrol. The patrol was fortunately accompanied by the Split Lake Special Constable, who has frequently been over the trail and able to guide the patrol to Churchill. "Bluecoat" and "Ellis" were charged with deserting their employ; the former pleaded "guilty" and was fined \$5 and costs or in default, 8 days' imprisonment; he was released on paying the fine. "Ellis" claimed that he had gone to look for "Bluecoat" and was released on 5 days' suspended sentence.

FUEL.

Wood is being hauled from the Bush Camp, 7 miles from barracks; sufficient is being hauled for my immediate requirements, but it will be necessary to raft wood down the river as soon as the ice breaks. This method will, I think, prove more satisfactory than hauling with dogs in winter, which is hard on both men and dogs.

WEATHER.

Throughout January and February the weather was exceedingly cold, the thermometer frequently registering from 45 to 52 below zero; the wind was less violent than usual, and blizzards were rare. The advent of March brought milder conditions.

GENERAL.

Mr. Leden, the explorer, continues to board with the police; he left here for a few weeks, taking one Eskimo boy with him, camp equipment, and six weeks' rations. He camped in the spruce, about 15 miles northwest of Churchill, and put out a line of traps, but he returned to barracks on 9th February, his expedition not being very successful.

Constable Withers of the Split Lake detachment, in compliance with my instructions patrolled to Churchill, arriving here on March 3, accompanied by Special Constable "Alec Spence" and one Indian. Constable Withers leaves on March 18 for Split Lake, and takes ex-Constable Harris out with him.

It is my intention to leave here during the first week in July, if the weather and ice conditions permit, to pay the annual treaty to the Indians at York Factory. I purpose using the same transport as last year, *i.e.* the whale-boat fitted up with auxiliary power with one ordinary whale-boat. I hope I shall be able to make connections with an incoming patrol from Regina, either at York or Port Nelson.

I should like to recommend that life belts be sent to Churchill this summer, these patrols by water are made without any precautions being taken for a possible accident. Should this suggestion meet with your approval, I would ask that you give the necessary instructions for sending in at least six of these belts.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. A. DEMERS, Supt.,

Commanding "M" Division.

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CHURCHILL, MANITOBA, 4th July, 1914.

The Commissioner,

R.N.W. Mounted Police,

Regina, Sask.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report of "M" Division, covering the period 16th March to 4th July, 1914. On April 13 a party of five surveyors (Mr. H. S. Holcroft, in charge) arrived at the police barracks, with four trains of dogs (20). The weather at the time was extremely bad, and they were boarded in barracks, this they continued to do until 20th May. They were in the meantime employed making preparations for their work, which is principally on the opposite side of the river, hauling wood to the site of their future camp being their chief occupation. The provisions, camp equipment, etc., for this party, as previously reported—did not arrive at Churchill by boat as intended, last summer, I had therefore to outfit them almost entirely, vouchers in triplicate are forwarded for all their expenses, under separate cover.

On May 20, the surveyors left barracks for their camp on the eastern peninsula, taking 75 days' rations, the weather was still far from good, but the snow on the land had to a great extent disappeared, and they were by this time able to commence their surveying.

Mr. Christian Leden, the explorer, continued boarding with the police until June 16, on which date he moved his camp equipment and effects to the Eskimo camp on the west peninsula, and is now living in his own tent, amongst the natives, and is able to accomplish to a certain extent the work for which he came to the country.

PATROLS.

Constable Withers, D., accompanied by J. H. Harris, left for his detachment at Split Lake, on 18th March, by which source I sent out my last packet of mail.

On March 23, Reg. No. 5526 Constable Rogers, C. E., accompanied by Native "Joe" and his son "Harry," with one dog team, left for Egg Island, about 100 miles north of Churchill, Mr. Leden accompanied this party, hiring an Eskimo to go with him, I placed a dog team at his disposal. The object of this patrol was to investigate a complaint made by Mr. Leden, regarding theft of stores by Eskimo, and to examine the condition of the police supplies wrecked there last fall.

A hunting patrol was sent out for seven days on April 9, and returned on the 16th with sixteen deer.

I most strongly recommend the abandoning of the winter patrol to Split Lake from Churchill, I have always great difficulty in obtaining a guide for this trip, last winter the guide was most unsatisfactory. It would be far more convenient to send this patrol to Port Nelson instead, there to connect with the patrol from Regina. It is very important that the Nelson detachment is kept in communication with Churchill as much as possible, and in addition the guide difficulty is done away with.

BUILDINGS.

The office porch has been sealed and painted, so that another room is available for either office or store as desired. I have given a coat of paint to the roofs in barracks, and am having all the log buildings whitewashed.

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LAUNCHES AND BOATS.

A lot of work has had to be done to both launches. Launch *A* received some damage in the storms we experienced last October, the wood work is quite water-logged, and it is continually under repair, it will be serviceable for unloading cargo this summer, but the boat itself will not stand any more repairing, and it is bound to get more or less damaged when unloading ships in rough weather. A new launch will be required for next summer's work. A launch of a different pattern would be of far more use, a sea-going launch in which patrols can be made would be the most satisfactory. The propeller on launch *C* has had to be renewed, this work is now completed, and the launch had a good trial run on July 1, when Constable Joyce, J.B., accompanied by the employed natives left on the morning's tide to recover the whale-boat left on the other side of Button bay last fall. This party returned on the evening's tide, covering about 50 miles in excellent style, and towing back the whale-boat, which was found to be undamaged.

The whale boats, cutter and canoe, have been overhauled, and any necessary repairs attended to, and are now being painted.

FULLERTON.

Detachment.—Native "Oog joug" of this detachment left Churchill on his return on March 17., taking 32 days rations, native "Hayward" a young brother of employed native "Joe" accompanying him. They were unable to take a large load owing to the distance, but I forwarded a few articles which Sergeant Edgerton required.

Both Sergeant Edgerton and Constable Conway should arrive here any day now, the trip south being made by whale boat along the edge of the floe.

PORT NELSON.

The Hudson's Bay Company have been freighting supplies from Churchill to York this spring, communication with this detachment has in consequence been frequent. I am forwarding Reg. No. 4687 Corporal Jones J. G., reports by this mail.

By the courtesy of Mr. Dunn the Marconi operator at Nelson, Corporal Jones has forwarded to Churchill, all the wireless messages received at Nelson up to the middle of April; this kindness is much appreciated by all here.

Health.—The health of all members has been excellent.

Discipline.—Three cases of breach of discipline have occurred and are reported on, under separate cover.

NATIVES.

All the Eskimo wintered well, it is difficult to obtain the vital statistics; two deaths are known to have occurred. There have been 3 or 4 births. The Eskimo are as usual quite independent, and are obtaining seal, white whale, and fish in large quantities. Five of them who were hunting seal on the ice. I had rather an exciting experience a few days ago, the wind was off shore, and the ice on which they were hunting broke off and commenced drifting out to sea, they being without canoes. Their wives luckily noticed their predicament, and sent their children to me for assistance. I sent my Natives out at once in my largest canoe, and they had no difficulty in bringing them safe to land.

A number of Chipewyan Indians arrived towards the end of May. They hunted and trapped much better than in former years, and there is practically no destitution.

I paid treaty to the Indians at present at Churchill on July 2, 89 including the Chief attended, this is not quite half of the Churchill band; the remainder headed by the two councillors have not returned from their winter hunting grounds.

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There have been 5 births—4 boys and 1 girl—and 4 deaths during the past 12 months amongst the families paid on the 2nd.

Accidental Deaths.—Two unfortunate accidents are reported by the Port Nelson detachment, both the deceased are Indians, a child was scalded to death on January 5th at Nelson, and a Split Lake Indian shot himself fatally on the trail between Port Nelson and Split Lake. Full reports are forwarded by this mail.

Dogs.—Three casualties have occurred since my last report, a bitch was found dead in her stall in the kennel, death being caused by strangulation, one dog was destroyed on account of old age, and a small bitch was destroyed owing to debility following distemper. The other dogs, in spite of a long and hard winter's work are all well, I have six pups also, but they are too young to raise any hopes yet.

Dog-feed.—The season has been up to the average for seal, but the Hudson's Bay Company have not only raised the price of seal, but have also supplied most of the Eskimo with canoes, with the hope of obtaining all the seal they kill, they intend shipping 40 barrels to York. I have had to give a higher price to the Natives, to counteract this, and have been able to obtain a good percentage of the number killed, and as the river is full of white whale, I shall have no difficulty in obtaining all the dog-feed I require. Another year it will be necessary to lend canoes to the Eskimo for my employed Natives are unable to kill seal in large enough quantities for my winter's supply.

CRIME.

The district is very quiet, and there is no crime to report.

GAME.

With the advent of spring, geese and ducks were obtained in fairly large quantities, ptarmigan were scarce all winter, but deer were obtainable nearly all winter. Both Indians and Eskimo have had a satisfactory fur catch.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I commenced taking stock of all stores on May 1st, and on completing this held an annual condemning board, reports on both heads are forwarded under separate cover.

The season has been backward, April was a very cold month, May and June were also unseasonable, the river did not break up until June 19, this is about the average for the last three years. I intend to leave for York Factory on Monday, July 6, taking the Constables going out to Regina, and to pay the Annual Treaty to the Indians at York.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. A. DEMERS, *Supt.*,
Commanding "M" Division.

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APPENDIX B.

REPORT OF SERGEANT W. G. EDGENTON, FULLERTON DETACHMENT.

FULLERTON, N.W.T., October 31, 1913.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W. Mounted Police,
"M" Division, Churchill

SIR,—I have the honour to make the following report of Fullerton detachment for 5 months ended October 31, 1913.

One mail patrol was made to Chesterfield Inlet with dogs, to connect with the Hudson's Bay Co's packet leaving for Churchill with whale boat in June.

The work of the detachment has consisted of hunting for dog feed along the floe for the winter's supply, painting the buildings and boats and repairing the same. All the buildings have been painted outside, viz., white picked out with ordinance blue, the whale boat being painted the same colour, and the ice boat ordinance blue. The whale-boat was repaired, a new keel consisting of good strong whale bone was put on, a new Cometik sled was made for spring use with whale bone runners 35 feet by 2½ feet.

All the refuse of the past winter, ashes tins, etc., have been cleaned up and disposed of.

The total amount of dog feed procured by hunting and purchase amounted to about six and a half tons, a barrel of oil was rendered down for hunting parties and patrols.

All stores were checked and reports and returns kept up to date awaiting your arrival. Several patrols were made with whale boat during the summer months along the coast to Ranken and Chesterfield Inlets, for the purpose of visiting Natives and trying to obtain news from the south.

My patrol left Chesterfield for the last time on October 1, and no ship had arrived then, so enough supplies were purchased to last over freeze up, when a patrol will leave on the first ice. I did not think it advisable to come down during the summer, as I heard that you had gone to York Factory, and did not know what arrangements had been made. I have only one boat fit for use, and would have had to bring all the employed natives with their families, so thought it advisable to remain here and await the Hudson's Bay Co's ship coming to Chesterfield, but this has not arrived and up to the present we have no news of her.

WHALERS.

The whaling schooner *Albert*, of Peterhead, Scotland (Capt. Murray), left for home in August, having caught one whale. Capt. A. J. Wing, of the whaling schooner *A. T. Gifford*, hailing from New Bedford, U.S.A., arrived here on August 25, for the purpose of whaling and also to establish a trading post at Fullerton. This has been done, a Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bompas being at Fullerton, Capt. Wing, with the schooner wintering at Marble Island. Mr. Cleveland has built a 24 foot square house, with four rooms, on the point directly opposite the barracks, across the inner harbour. Customs duty was collected on all articles landed for trade, etc., a report of which I have forwarded.

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GAME.

Close season for musk ox has been well observed, all skins traded for, as far as it is possible to ascertain, have been shot in season, the natives are all acquainted with the regulations. A large number of walrus are killed every year in this district, the Hudson's Bay Company and traders buying the hides, the largest quantity being caught around Marble island. Eiderducks are always plentiful along the floe, but ptarmigan and deer have been very scarce during the year, hunting parties not being very successful.

DISCIPLINE AND HEALTH.

Reg. No. 4217 Constable Conway, P.R., has always proved himself a reliable and willing man and is a good man for the north. The health of all members of the detachment is good.

NATIVES.

The natives have all gone to their winter quarters, viz.: Repulse bay, Baker lake and Ranken inlet, a few are at the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Chesterfield, and one boat's crew with their families are at Marble island. No natives are staying at Fullerton with the exception of the ones employed at the trade store.

All natives are well provided for for the winter as regards clothing and ammunition and appear to be in good health. Employed native "Sullivan" was discharged last July at his own request, and native "Dooley" hired in his place, he appears to be a good man and is quick to comprehend.

DOGS.

One casualty has occurred since my last report, dog (Marki) purchased at Repulse Bay last winter, died of distemper in July. The pups have been raised and are all being worked, another two will be fit to work about next April. The remainder of the dogs are in good condition, "Puck-a-muck" will be too old after this season, and I recommend that he be destroyed.

Number of dogs 14, pups 2.

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the year Mr. Monjo of New York has opened a fur trading post at Fullerton, and expects to bring in supplies next year by schooner, this will make it of more importance for the police to remain here during the summer months to collect duties, licenses, etc.

A patrol leaves here shortly for Chesterfield Inlet to procure provisions if possible and also to make arrangements for our mail going through to Churchill.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. EDGENTON, *Sergt.*,

Reg. No. 4103.

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APPENDIX C.

PATROL REPORTS, SERGEANT W. G. EDGENTON, FULLERTON TO CHESTERFIELD INLET; SALMON RIVER, AND MARBLE ISLAND.

FULLERTON, N.W.T., November 28, 1913.

The Officer Commanding,
R. N. W. Mounted Police,
"M" Division, Churchill.

SIR,—I have the honour to make a report of a patrol made from this detachment to Chesterfield Inlet, to connect if possible with a mail packet leaving for Churchill. The patrol consisted of Sergeant Edgenton and native "Oou-joug" with one team of dogs and necessary equipment for 10 days. On arrival at Chesterfield, Mr. Ford, manager of the Hudson's Bay Company, informed me that his packet had left on the 21st October; owing to the steamer not arriving there this summer, he had to send as soon as possible to Churchill for a few supplies. Our last patrol by open water was on September 30, but he had not made any arrangements then about his winter packet. The middle of November is the earliest any packet can reach Chesterfield from the north, owing to the inlet not freezing over. Mr. Ford could not let me know, and couldn't possibly wait. I will therefore have to make other arrangements to get our mail through.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Small bands of deer were seen along the coast of Daly bay and amongst the Bailey islands. Natives seen en route were well provided for, and were having a fairly prosperous hunt. Fur is scarce this winter, about 100 foxes only having been sold to the different traders.

DIARY.

Thursday, November 20, 1913, left Fullerton at 7.30 a.m., travelled through the numerous islands adjacent to Fullerton to the point on the north of Daly bay, then across the bay to Walrus island, 5 miles north of Depot island, and here made igloo. Thirty miles.

Friday 21st, left igloo at 7.30 a.m., travelled by Depot island, then took to the land owing to rough ice; met native "Jack" at 1 p.m., hunting deer, and travelled with him to his camp and stayed the night.

Saturday, 22, left camp at 8 a.m., travelled over land to the Bailey Islands, and followed along the coast to Wag island, and then crossed the inlet; this place was not yet frozen over, so we had to make a detour, arriving at the H. B. Co.'s post at 3 p.m.

Sunday, 23. Resting at Chesterfield.

Monday 24, left Chesterfield at 9 a.m., after loading on 300 pounds of biscuit, we then travelled across the inlet to White Whale island, made camp for the night at 3 p.m. Distance 20 miles

Tuesday, 25. Left at 7.30 a.m., travelled the same route as coming and made igloo for the night on point about 8 miles from Depot Island.

Friday, 26. Left camp at 7 a.m. passed Depot Island and crossed Daly bay, camping for the night on the small island south of our old igloo. Distance 30 miles.

Saturday, 27. Left camp at 7.30, travelled through the numerous islands by the Police Beacon and reached Fullerton at 2 p.m. Men and dogs in good shape.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant, .

W. G. EDGENTON, *Sergt.*,

Reg. No. 4103,

5 GEORGE V., A. 1915

FULLERTON, N.W.T., 30th December, 1913.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W. Mounted Police,
"M" Division, Churchill.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward report of patrol made from this detachment to Salmon river, about 50 miles north, for the purpose of relieving natives supposed to be destitute. On December 25, Native "Oshukta" arrived at Fullerton in poor condition and reported that he had left his wife, two children and another old woman on Salmon river and that they had had nothing to eat for ten days, "Oshukta" was on his way to join his father here at Fullerton from the Wager River district, but owing to the scarcity of game they became short of food and exhausted, the women and children being unable to travel any farther. Sergeant Edgenton accompanied by employed native "Oog-Joug" left next morning with dog team, and camped about thirty miles to the north. Left next morning and made the mouth of the Salmon river at 10 a.m., and had to hunt up the "igloo," finally finding same about ten miles to the west.

This party was in very bad shape, having lived on sealskin boots for 8 to 10 days, we did everything possible for them in the way of cooking hot soup and cocoa that night, and some more soup in the morning, leaving them enough supplies to last until the husband could get back.

The patrol was away four days in all, and travelled about 100 miles reaching Fullerton in good condition.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. EDGENTON, *Sergt.*,

Reg. No. 4103.

FULLERTON, N.W.T., 21st January, 1914.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W. Mounted Police,
"M" Division, Churchill.

SIR,—I have the honour to make a report of a patrol made from this detachment to Marble Island for the purpose of visiting the whaling schooner *A. T. Gifford*, wintering at that place. The patrol consisted of Sergeant Edgenton and employed native "Oog-Joug" with team of dogs and supplies for twenty days. The patrol left Fullerton on the morning of January 1, 1914, and reached its destination at noon on the 9th.

We were made very welcome by Capt. J. Wing, who reports everything in good order.

Owing to the island being so far from the mainland, he had not been able to procure any fresh meat, the natives all being camped on the mainland and unable to cross, but they had sent a party of seven (six natives and one white man) out hunting and expect them back at any time.

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Everything was in good order, and the men seemed to be contented in their winter quarters, a few cases of sickness and frostbites easily cured was all the sickness they had.

Capt. Wing informed me that he was not doing well in the fur trade, only having procured 160 foxes up to that time and the prospects were poor. He intends to have three whaleboats out whaling early in May, two belonging to the ship and one to a native he employs. He intends sailing for home some time in August or September, leaving some one in charge of the trading post at Fullerton. The crew consists of Capt. Wing, first and second mates, cook and six men before the mast; with the exception of the two mates the crew are on the usual pay of the American whalers, the mates being from Newfoundland, are on wages.

The patrol stayed over for three days to rest and feed up their dogs and then left for their return trip.

GENERAL REMARKS.

No game of any sort was seen along the route. The weather on the whole was bad, being foggy and snowing nearly all the time. All the Natives seen were fairly well provided for, and had good clothing. These natives nearly all belong to the Iviliks and hunt the floe for walrus and seal during the winter months.

DIARY.

Thursday January 1, 1914. Left Fullerton at 8 a.m., travelled through the islands to Daly Bay Point, and made igloo. Travelling slow. Distance 20 miles.

Friday January 2. Left camp at 7.30 a.m., travelled across Daly Bay to Depot Island and camped for the night. Distance 22 miles.

Saturday January 3. After leaving igloo had to travel over land owing to the rough ice, to one of the numerous Bailey Islands where we made igloo, travelling slow on the soft snow. Distance 20 miles.

Sunday January 4. Left igloo and travelled through the Bailey group to Wag Island and then across the Inlet to Chesterfield, arriving at the Hudson's Bay Co's post in the evening. Distance 24 miles.

Monday January 5. Resting at Chesterfield.

Tuesday January 6. Left the Hudson's Bay Co's post at 9 a.m., travelled south along the coast until 3 p.m., when we made igloo on the ice. Travelled through rough ice, weather foggy. Distance 20 miles.

Wednesday 7. Left igloo at 7.30 a.m. and travelled south all day but were unable to pick any marks of sleds. Owing to thick mist we camped on the ice at 3 p.m., and thought we must be nearly opposite Marble Island. Distance about 20 miles.

Thursday 8. Left igloo at 8 a.m., travelled west to pick up the land; still very foggy and expected to find a party of natives camped thereabouts, we found an old camp belonging to native "Gilbert" and then picked up his trail, following along this, found them camped at Rabbit Island, where we camped for the night and made arrangements for a guide to take us over to Marble Island.

Friday 9. Left early and travelled east by north, native "Jimmy" being our guide, we met with very rough ice and in places very thin, the guide informing me that it had only frozen over the day before. We reached the ship at noon in good shape.

January 10, 11 and 12. At Marble Island, resting dogs.

Monday 13. Left the ship at 9.30 a.m. with native "Jimmy" as guide, and travelled to Rabbit Island and camped for the night.

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Tuesday 14. Left Rabbit Island at 8 a.m. and travelled along the coast, camping at old igloos each night; we reached Chesterfield Inlet on the evening of the 16th. Here we met Mr. Hall of the Hudson's Bay Company lately arrived from Churchill with mail and your instructions to come through to Churchill.

Mr. Hall informed me that he would be leaving for Churchill in about 10 days time, so I made all haste to get to Fullerton and make preparations for my trip south, the dogs only getting 3 days rest before starting again on a long trip.

I reached Fullerton on the evening of the 20th inst, men and dogs in fairly good shape, I found everything in good order on my arrival at the detachment.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. EDGENTON, *Sergt.*,

Reg. No. 4103.