Hudson's Bay Company's Arctic Discovery Expedition.

From the London Morning Chronicle.

The lively interest which the British public have for such a length of time manifested in the farther discovery of the Arctic regions induced the Hudson's Bay Company to determine on equipping an expedition solely at their own expense, and composed of their own officers and servants, with the view of endeavoring to complete the survey of the Northern shores of the American continent.

The formation and equipment of the expedition were intrusted to Mr. Dease, Simpson, the resident governor, *in the spring of 1836.* That gentleman's early arrival from England at Norway House, Lake Winnipeg, in the month of June in the same year, brought to him all the able and enterprising men in the course of the winter, descended the Slave river, passed the Western end of Great Slave Lake, where Messrs. Dease and Simpson arrived by ice, and descended Mackenzie's river to Fort Norman, where they arrived on the 1st July. From Fort Norman they despatched two of their party, with two other men belonging to the Company, to the Northern end of Great Bear's Lake, for the purpose of erecting a small establishment at which they might take up their quarters for the following winter, and of laying up a stock of provisions, which were procured in the course of the winter, descended the Slave river, passed the Western end of Great Slave Lake, where Messrs. Dease and Simpson arrived by ice, and descended Mackenzie's river to Fort Norman, where they arrived on the 1st July. From Fort Norman they despatched two of their party, with two other men belonging to the Company, to the Northern end of Great Bear's Lake, for the purpose of erecting a small establishment at which they might take up their quarters for the following winter, and of laying up a stock of provisions, which were procured in the course of the winter, descended the Slave river, passed the Western end of Great Slave Lake, where Messrs. Dease and Simpson, with the remainder of their people, forming a party of twelve in all, continued their course down the Mackenzie, and reached Fort Good Hope, the most Northern establishment belonging to the Company, on the 4th, where they found an assemblage of Esquimaux about sixty in number. From them they learned that the Esquimaux had killed three of their party a short time previous to their arrival.

On the 9th of July they reached the ocean by the most westerly mouth of the Mackenzie, making its situation in lat. 68 deg. 49 min. 23 sec. N., long. 126 deg. 30 min. 45 sec. W. They remained here for a short distance to seaward when a party of nineteen Esquimaux went off to them from Tent Island, who showed a disposition to be troublesome, but nothing of a serious nature occurred. They found the party prepared to defend themselves if necessary. The progress of the party along the coast was very slow, owing to frequent obstructions from ice, cold, stormy weather, and fogs. On the 14th, the afternoon of the 11th they reached Point Keay, where they found another encampment of Esquimaux, and where they were detained by a compact body of ice, supported by the land until the 15th. They continued their route till the 17th, when an unbroken pack of ice extending to seaward made them seek the shore to remain for, most a large camp of Esquimaux, who received them kindly.

In the afternoon there appeared a narrow passage of water through the ice stretching outward, and they immediately launched their boat not proceeded above three miles when the land and the ice suddenly closed upon them, squeezing one of their boats, which, with their provisions and baggage, they succeeded in getting on board, by the means of portages from one piece of ice to another, the oars serving as bridges, they finally got on a large floe, where they passed an inclement and anxious night. On the 18th they reached Cape Parker Bands Bay, when they were stopped by ice and a violent northeast wind until the 23d, having on the preceding day made an ineffectual attempt to weather Cape Bathurst. On the 24th the weather again became favorable, and they reached Cape Krusenstern, in lat. 69 deg. 30 min. 45 sec. N., long. 163 deg. 30 min. 45 sec. W., the variation of the compass 45 deg. 30 sec. E.

Next morning, 26th July, they passed the Gany, a river about one mile broad.

On the 27th the direct coast turned suddenly off to the WNW. It presented to the eye nothing but a succession of low banks of ice-bound land. In the evening they passed the mouth of a large stream which they named Peel's River, after Sir Robert Peel, then at the head of the government. At their base flows Colvile's River, two miles broad at its mouth, to the south-west of which stands Point Warren, the most northerly point of the American continent. The current here runs its lofty peaks above these flat shores, which they named Kellett's Mountains, after the commander of the company

the London Morning Chronicle. "Hudson's Bay Company's Arctic Discovery Expedition." New York Spectator, 17 May 1838. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, link.gale.com/apps/doc/GT3003801692/NCNP?u=mlin_b_bpublic&sid=bookmark-NCNP&xid=cc8ca72c. Accessed 15 Nov. 2022.