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Author(s): Henry Toke Munn

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Buddhist temple, and has been seen by many travellers up to the present day. This is recorded in the "*Ming Shih Lu*," the True Records of the Ming dynasty.

We charge you carefully to ascertain the names of mountains and rivers and report them to Us.

THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE BAFFIN ISLAND ESKIMO

Henry Toke Munn

THE economic life of the Eskimo cannot be judged from any one region. Recognized authorities describe the life of the Eskimo in the regions of their explorations, and the reader is apt to apply this information to the whole of the Arctic lands over which these interesting people are thinly scattered. For example, the Kinipitu tribe of Hudson Bay—inland dwellers—have forgotten the art of seal-hunting and many have never seen a walrus; the Igluliut tribe of Fox Channel have hunted and used the walrus for their main meat supply for the hundred years we know of and probably much longer. It is to the Eskimo of Baffin Island the following notes apply; they may be taken as quite inapplicable to the natives of, say, Coronation Gulf or Hudson Bay, where different conditions govern their economic life.

The Eskimo of Cumberland Gulf—the Tunnu-me-muit tribe—depend mainly on, and are expert hunters of, the ring seal (*Phoca hispida*). Some of these natives always go in the early summer to Lake Nettilling, taking with them a whale-boat, which they drag over the short portages from the head of the gulf. This is the largest known lake on Baffin Island, and numbers of cariboo summer on the numerous islands at its eastern side to get away from the flies. These hunters supply the winter clothing of cariboo skins—shot from August 1 to September 25—which are indispensable to the Eskimo, and incomparably the best garment and blanket for Arctic work. Besides ring seal, a few bearded seal (*Phoca barbata*) are killed in Cumberland Gulf. These, a large seal weighing 500 to 700 lbs., are invaluable for making and resoling boots, being tough and waterproof. I estimate the number of seals of all kinds killed yearly in Cumberland Gulf at 5000 to 6000, and the supply does not appear to be affected, as this has been going on for many years.

From Resolution Island to the entrance to Cumberland Gulf (though not far up the gulf itself) on the south side, there are large herds of walrus generally to be found in the deep indentations of the coast; these are very little hunted now. Of all the Arctic Sea foods the walrus stands first. His blubber and meat are more palatable, his great size supplies food for natives and dogs alike, and his hide, with some blubber left on, is the best of dog food for winter travel. Not being worth hunting now for

their hides as an article of commerce, the walrus are increasing rapidly on the Baffin Island coast.

In the spring or early summer another source of food supply to the natives is the white whale, which is found in large numbers in Frobisher Inlet and Cumberland Gulf. At this season the meat soon becomes high, and is usually put under piles of stones for dog food in winter, though the natives frequently use it themselves. The white-whale hides have a fair commercial value, and the Hudson Bay Company obtain considerable numbers of them.

On the coast of Baffin Island, north from Leopold Island at the north entrance to Cumberland Gulf, a few natives are scattered between this island and Cape Kater north of Home Bay, and walrus and seal are numerous as far as Kater. This coast would support a much greater population—has, in fact, done so within man's memory, for till the last decade the natives have been disappearing rapidly; a slight improvement seems now to have taken place.

I believe that all the non-glacial rivers of Baffin Island supply large quantities of salmon, which run in September, and can be then taken and frozen for winter use. Nets are useful but not necessary, the salmon being taken in pens made by placing rocks across the river at a suitably shallow place.

The Home Bay natives get their cariboo inland, where they say they often see large herds, probably of the Lake Nettilling migration. They report a large lake between Piling on the Fox Channel and the north-west corner of Home Bay, and the distance across from tide water to Piling is spoken of as indicating only 60 to 70 miles.

There are no permanent settlements now along the Baffin Island coast from Home Bay to Ponds Inlet, though in the 'seventies and 'eighties Clyde River, Eglinton, and Dexterity all had permanent camps. The cessation of the whaling industry compelled these people to move north or south, where they could obtain supplies of ammunition and rifles. Seals are numerous along the whole east coast of Baffin Island, but are difficult to get in winter between Kater and Ponds Inlet in certain seasons if the ice presses heavily in on the coast. For this reason the natives do not care to make this journey before April; by this date they can obtain plenty of seals anywhere along the coast.

Polar bear are very numerous along the Baffin Island coast, and form an important item in the food supply and trade of the natives after February; bear do not appear to be decreasing in numbers. Though salmon do not run up rivers having their source in glaciers, off the mouth of these rivers and streams they are often taken in August; they appear to leave the lake in which they have wintered as soon as the ice permits, travelling varying distances along the coast and congregating at the mouths of any streams. In September—depending on the season, whether late or early—the salmon return to their "home" river, and are

then in the best condition. Their principal food appears to be sea lice, and they become in fair condition within a week or ten days of reaching salt water.

Usually, when parties leave for the summer deer hunting, the old people and some of the children stay at the tide water at the mouth of a good salmon river, and put all the fish they take under piles of rocks. The earlier caught become very soft and rotten, and are used in winter as dog feed, though the natives enjoy a feed of this "for a change," just as they do rotten walrus or seal meat, which in white nostrils smells to high heaven.

The natives of Ponds Inlet (the Tununirohurmuit)—which includes all Eclipse Sound—are fine seal hunters, and depend on these for their winter food. Occasionally the seal fail at certain settlements, as happened in 1920-21, when I was compelled to feed about eighty natives at our station for nearly three months, the seal failure coinciding with a failure of the deer hunters to obtain winter clothing; consequently the women and children could not be moved to better sealing grounds.

While on this subject I would urge on the Canadian Government the vital importance of controlling the export of cariboo skins from the Canadian Arctic, permitting only the moving of them within the Arctic itself, to enable one part of the country to supply another. The importance of these skins for winter clothing cannot be too strongly emphasized, and to lack of it can be traced a considerable mortality amongst the Eskimo as a first cause of lung affection or bronchial sickness. No white man's clothing is even a tolerable substitute for these admirable skins.

The cariboo of Baffin Island appear to be divided into two major herds, with several smaller herds which are local in their range. The northern of these two large herds range from the shores of Eclipse Sound and Lancaster Sound as far south as Piling on the north-east end of Fox Channel. The southern herd—which certainly mixes considerably with the northern—ranges from Piling south to the islands on Lake Nettilling. This southern herd sometimes winters on the highlands north of Cumberland Gulf. There are local herds on the land between Frobisher Bay and Cumberland Gulf, and also on Melville and Brodeur peninsulas. Cariboo are also found in summer a few days' journey from tidewater at the head of several of the deep and as yet quite uncharted fjords on the east coast; these are probably offshoots of the two large herds.

For some years an important source of food supply to the Ponds Inlet and Admiralty Inlet natives is furnished by the narwhal, and since I have made and encouraged the building of kyaks, some of these whales are always taken in summer and autumn. Occasionally large herds of narwhal are caught in Eclipse Sound by the early setting of the ice in the Navy Board and Ponds Inlet, and then the winter larders of the natives are full indeed. It is probable that very large herds of narwhal are sometimes

wiped out completely by this cause. In 1917-18 the natives killed some 500 or 600 at blow-holes; these were, they said, only a few of the large number they believed were subsequently drowned by the closing of the ice. The sinew of the narwhal and white whale is a valuable thread for certain kinds of work, such as kyak sewing; cariboo sinew and the very excellent sinew from the throat of the bear being other kinds of thread used for foot wear and clothing.

At the north end of Fox Channel are the Igluliut tribe of Eskimo. In Parry's time these were a large tribe (1820-21). They are now very mixed with the Ponds Inlet and Admiralty natives, and it is certain they have intermarried with these for a very long period, sometimes by arrangement, sometimes by "Sabine" rapes on a considerable scale. About the 'forties, owing to the fear of the Igluliuts, the whole population of Admiralty Inlet disappeared, and this may coincide with the arrival of a party of Eskimo at Etah in North Greenland some years later, as recorded by Rasmussen.

The Igluliuts are the best walrus hunters in the Arctic, excepting only the Etah Eskimo. Their winter hunting grounds range from Amitoke on the west to Piling on the north-east of Fox Channel, and these seem to be unailing walrus grounds. I have never heard of a story of starvation amongst the Igluliuts, though such tales are too frequent with every other tribe I have heard of, except the Cumberland Gulf natives. As lately as 1919-20 a number of Nechilling natives died of starvation in the Repulse Bay country, according to Igluliut report.

Any intelligent Baffin Island natives I have talked to agree that a regular supply of ammunition explains the absence of starvation and consequent increase in births over deaths of late years. Against this they agree that rifles and ammunition also explain the depletion of the cariboo herds.

The Igluliuts are the only natives of Baffin Island who hunt the walrus in the old style in winter; they go out on the young ice constantly forming and being broken up by gales, and harpoon the walrus when he breaks through to blow, holding him by driving their lance through the ice at an angle and taking a turn round the base. They pride themselves on killing walrus without a rifle; last winter my trader saw a sixteen-year-old boy take his first walrus unaided in this manner. A frequent cause of death used to be the loss of good hunters by the sudden breaking up of the young ice in a gale; small boats, strong enough to be put on the sleds and loaded with meat are now taken by them to the walrus hunt. As before noted, and prompted by what I have observed in Greenland, I have encouraged the natives of Ponds Inlet to use the kyak, this eminently suitable canoe being invaluable for procuring seal and small whales in summer.

For the Ponds Inlet and Admiralty natives, the most important sealing period is between November and March, and it is then they need to be

camped at a good sealing ground. Seals are obtained then (except in a few places) entirely by the waiting method not quite accurately described by Stefansson in his 'Friendly Arctic.' Only a very exceptional white man could stand the cold long enough to hunt often by this method, or would possess the skill to kill his seal when it comes to the breathing hole. Were Stefansson to make a long coastal journey with white men only along Baffin Island, I should doubt his ability to provide food for his party and his dogs by the waiting method of sealing, the only one by which seals can be obtained round this coast during winter, within reasonable distance of land. Food, first and foremost, is the Baffin Island Eskimo's main interest, and he will invariably reply to your question as to a good winter or otherwise in terms of food, *i.e.* a hungry or not hungry winter. It will be a misfortune if these people are to be exploited by big companies, and the native encouraged to trap fur to the detriment of his hunting, and to purchase much trade goods useless to his simple mode of life. Though it is perhaps impossible of realization owing to vested interests, and the difficulties of administration, the suggestion in the late Gordon Hewitt's book 'Wild Life in Canada' that the north-land should be administered as a Crown monopoly, is a sound one. We have only to contrast Greenland's twelve thousand inhabitants, all healthy, happy, and self-supporting, with the vanishing Eskimo of the Canadian Arctic, having far greater economic resources in its waters, to realize the truth of this statement.

STEREOGRAPHIC SURVEY: THE STEREO-AUTOGRAPH

Arthur R. Hinks, C.B.E., F.R.S., Sec. R.G.S.

Read at the Afternoon Meeting of the Society, 13 February 1922.

IN the spring of 1921 M. Emmanuel de Margerie, on a visit to London, gave a very favourable account of the results obtained with the "Stereoautograph" of Von Orel and Zeiss in the survey of the Grande Combe, a hilly wooded coal-mining region in the south of France, near Nîmes. This survey had been undertaken by the *Société française de Stéréotopographie*, a company formed in Paris by M. Paul Corbin, with Colonel Talon, formerly of the *Service géographique*, as Director, and Commandant Vavon of the same service as technical chief.

The question arose, whether the method was applicable to the survey of Mount Everest; and I was directed by the President of the Royal Geographical Society to study the methods and apparatus.

Having learned from Colonel Talon that he would very gladly give me every facility, I left for Paris on the evening of 6 April 1921, and spent the greater part of the following eight days in examining the installation at the offices of the Société in the Rue Lauriston, No. 85,