

Our Wildlife

News from the Wildlife Division

Department of Environment & Conservation Natural Heritage Branch



Reindeer, which are synonymous with Christmas, are similar to our native caribou. We thought it appropriate to publish a **special Christmas edition of Our Wildlife** to explain the relationship between reindeer and caribou.

We also wish to showcase one particular adventure associated with reindeer in Newfoundland, an arduous trek in 1908 to bring 50 reindeer from St. Anthony to Millertown for use as draught animals in the A.N.D Company's woods operation.

I have a personal interest in this story since my great uncle, Tom Greening, played a critical role in the events. Uncle Tom followed up his involvement in the

great reindeer trek by adopting a caribou calf during a trip into the interior with Thomas Howe, and trained it to pull a sleigh at his home in Brooklyn. It has been said that Uncle Tom spit down the throat of the caribou calf to reinforce its bond - I wonder if he learned that from the Lapps.

Thanks to P.D.G. Arthur Johnson, deputy minister of economic development in the sixties for his extensive research on the topic, and his article, which was previously published in the Newfoundland Quarterly (1966).

- Gerry Yetman, Senior Manager
Stewardship & Education

Season's Greetings from the Wildlife Division

Reindeer Driving, 26 3/4 x 46. Hooked mat on brin using cotton hooking material.

Designed by Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, circa 1916. Reprinted from Grenfell Hooked Mats.com



Ruldolph the red-nosed *Rangifer tarandus* ...



Reindeer or Caribou?

To most people, reindeer are the trusty animals that Santa Claus relies on to pull his toy-laden sleigh through the sky and onto rooftops at Christmas time.

Some people will also know reindeer as being associated with the Laplanders of Scandinavia, who have domesticated them and use them as draught animals, as well as for food and clothing.

They do, however, look very much like the caribou that we have in Newfoundland and Labrador, and the question has been asked: are they the same species? The simple answer is yes. Both reindeer and caribou are members of the same species, *Rangifer tarandus*.

The species though is broken down into quite a number of sub-species, with our Labrador caribou identified as *Rangifer tarandus caribou*, the woodland caribou.

The term reindeer, however, generally applies to domesticated caribou traditionally found in Scandinavia and Siberia, whose sub-species is *Rangifer tarandus tarandus*.

Scientific names are used to differentiate between all organisms; they are unique, and universal in their application. Common names are not so rigidly controlled. You can have different organisms with the same name, or there can be multiple names for an individual organism.



Hard-working reindeer at Santa's Village, Rovaniemi, in Finnish Lapland. Photos: Finnish Tourist Board

So if Santa Clause was to domesticate caribou from Labrador, hitch them to his sleigh and teach them to fly, they should serve the purpose quite well. Since they would be housed at the North Pole, which is not associated with North America, Europe or Asia, it would be difficult to differentiate whether they were residing where the local or common name is reindeer (Europe and

Asia) or caribou (North America). The determining factor would have to be the fact that they have been domesticated, and therefore would then be called reindeer.

- Gerry Yetman

The Great

In 1907-08, Dr. Wilfred Grenfell imported 300 reindeer from Norway to Newfoundland for use as a food source, and as draught animals. The reindeer and a group of handlers from Lapland landed at Cremeliere Harbour. Two hundred fifty reindeer were destined for Grenfell's St. Anthony Mission: 50 were to be sent to Millertown for the Anglo-Newfoundland Development (A.N.D.) Company's use in woods camps. The Laplanders joined a crew from the A.N.D. Company, including Micmac guide Mattie Mitchell, to bring the small herd to Millertown.

Reindeer Trek



Left: The *Anita* landing at Cremeliere Harbor south of St. Anthony in winter 1908. Three hundred reindeer from Norway were onboard. Below: Laplanders arrive at St. Anthony with reindeer-sleds. Photos from the Vashti Bartlett Photograph Collection (The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions)

"A hardy crew faced incredible hardships"

An account of this trip was presented to the St. John's Rotary Club in March 1962. The story, told by Arthur Johnson, Newfoundland's deputy minister of economic development, is included at the end of this newsletter.



A NURSE REMEMBERS: Vashti Bartlett studied nursing at Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses from 1903 to 1906, and embarked on a nursing career that took her all over the world. In 1908 she joined the Royal National Mission to deep sea fishermen in Newfoundland, established by medical missionary, Dr. Wilfred Grenfell. She served as chief nurse at the hospital in St. Anthony.

Vashti Bartlett was in Newfoundland the year Dr. Grenfell arranged to import 300 reindeer from Norway to Newfoundland. Her photograph collection includes images of the reindeer experiment and is available online at: <http://www.medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/vbartlett/phnewfound.htm>

Top: "Reindeer coming home, St. Anthony." Below: "Reindeer." International Grenfell Association Lantern Slides Collection, Maritime History Archive, Memorial University Digital Archives Initiative

Reindeer in the News

Dr. Wilfred Grenfell's efforts to bring reindeer to Newfoundland made international news: here are two articles from two very diverse publications: *The New York Times*, and New Zealand's *The Bush Advocate*.

REINDEER TO SAVE LABRADOR'S FUTURE

Success of Dr. Grenfell's Experiment in Importing Them from Lapland Promises Well.

HERD LARGELY INCREASED

May Replace the Savage Sledge Dog, Which Now Makes Impossible the Keeping of Domestic Animals.

Special to The New York Times.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., May 29.—The introduction of real Santa Claus reindeer from Lapland into Labrador seems to have proved a great success. The herd of 300 deer imported with their drivers by Dr. Wilfrid Grenfell has increased wonderfully the last Winter, and if aid is given by the Government, as is expected, a new industry will have been instituted, and the settlers in Labrador and Northern Newfoundland will be rescued from the starvation fate which threatened them as a result of the rapid extermination of the harp seal.

The trouble always has been that it has been impossible to keep domestic animals in the northern country on account of the dogs. The reindeer, if it take the place of the dog as a draught animal, will also supply milk and meat, clothes and bedding for the inhabitants.

D. W. Prowse, Newfoundland's historian, has called attention to this phase of Dr. Grenfell's labors for the northern settlers in a letter in which he also includes the missionary's own views on the work. He says:

"Of all the services rendered to this country by Dr. Grenfell the most philanthropic, first, was his giving up a wonderfully lucrative practice in London to work up along; second, was his introduction of reindeer with their Lapp drivers into Labrador and Northern Newfoundland. It is expected that the reindeer will take the place of the seal, which has been all but exterminated."

Efforts to domesticate the native caribou have never been successful, but as the reindeer have been permitted to run loose, it is believed and hoped that they will interbreed, with the result that a larger and hardier animal will be produced.

The success of the experiment means hope for the natives even if the Government takes no action to preserve the now almost exterminated seal, and, Mr. Prowse says, "it calls for a Government grant to import more deer."

But there is one consideration which should be insisted upon, the historian says, and that is that no dogs be permitted to run loose. He says:

"The Labrador dogs are as savage as a wolf. They have been known to kill a whole flock of sheep simply through wanton lust for slaughter. None of the sheep was eaten. Every season some poor settler or Eskimo is killed by these murderous brutes."

"So savage are the dogs that it has been impossible to keep any kind of domestic animal. Cows, goats, chickens, sheep, swine, even horses are dragged down and killed. One child was almost eaten alive by the brutes. It was saved by its mother, who was herself terribly chewed up. Both were taken to the mission at Battle Harbor, where they were cured after many months."

In a letter received by Mr. Prowse from Dr. Grenfell, the latter said regarding his experiments in the introduction of the reindeer:

"We have conquered the ice and the opposition of the North Atlantic and forced its reluctant waters to pay us a handsome annual tribute of cod, halibut, salmon, herring, seals and whales. But the land, from which man generally first exacts payment, has yet yielded nothing."

"It does, however, seem that if man can't transform these hundreds of thousands of unoccupied acres into pasture lands for ordinary cattle he can reverse the process and transform the cattle into extraordinary ones to meet the possibilities of the country."

See *STRUGGLING*, page 4

Reindeer in the News

Struggling with conditions

Continued from page 3

"To us, struggling with the conditions obtaining here, the endless quantity of nutritious mosses available all Winter, the varied edible herbs and grasses, pointed unmistakably to a repetition of the successful reindeer experiment in Alaska.

"Peary has shown that deer of a similar character flourish in the extreme limits of this earth, and exist even under the polar night of North Grant Land. His are deer and not musk-ox, and the adaptation of their white coats to their environment, like that of the bear, hare, partridge, and most polar animals, tends to show the long period they have survived there and the adaptive faculties the reindeer possess.

"Our own experiment began three years ago with a shipment of 300 deer and three Lapp families from Alten Fyorde, in Lapland, north of the North Cape.

"The deer got but a cold reception. They were landed on and scattered over the frozen sea surface, but they all found their way to land by aid of deer with bells on being posted at distances along the land.

"It had been a mild Fall, followed by a sharp December without snow, and the poor beasts, after their long sea voyage across the Atlantic in the dead of Winter, found the moss buried in sheet ice, known here as 'glitter.' Everything seemed against them.

"There is room in Labrador for feeding easily 3,000,000 or more reindeer, enabling it to export hundreds of thousands of skins and carcasses annually, while the help to other branches of industry, like pulp producing, mining, fisheries, etc., that the presence of this herd and of this population would be is self-apparent."

The New York Times

Published: May 30, 1910

Copyright © The New York Times

The Bush Advocate

May 19, 1908 Dannevirke, New Zealand

The Standard has for some time been doing good service to the cause of Empire by publishing articles describing life in remote parts of the King's dominions. Nothing described in these articles has been more interesting than the accounts by Dr Wilfrid Grenfell, of his work in Newfoundland and Labrador as superintendent of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. It would be pretty safe to say that no other work is being done in the Empire entailing more hardship, danger, and self-sacrifice. Dr Grenfell's latest triumph is the introduction of the reindeer to Newfoundland. We referred not long ago to the introduction of these animals into Alaska, and of their immense value to the struggling people of that country. Dr Grenfell, hearing of the success of this experiment, resolved to introduce the animals into Newfoundland. Specimens of moss from the island were sent to Kew, and declared to be identical with the natural food of the Norwegian reindeer. To transport a herd, and their herds-men, 2500 miles was an expensive business, but the money was raised by Government and private subscriptions, and by Dr Grenfell's lectures in the United States and Canada. A herd of 300 was embarked on a steamer of 2000 tons, which left Norway on December 14th, and arrived in a Newfoundland bay on January 6th. Dr Grenfell tells how the population posted across country in their excitement to witness the disembarking of the reindeer; how each frightened animal, bucking and kicking, was hove down the gang plank; how part of the herd at first made across the rocking ice for the open sea, finally landing where they could; how one of the Lapps spent the night, in pitch darkness, snow, and an unknown country, in rounding them up, and returned smiling the next morning, driving twenty deer before him. These wonderful herds-men collected the whole 300 safe and sound in three days. The herd was brought across the Atlantic in the winter, and landed across broken ice in a gale, without one animal being lost or seriously hurt, surely a wonderful piece of work! If the reindeer flourish, they will give milk, food, clothing, and transport to the people of Newfoundland, who will have new cause to bless the name of Dr Grenfell.

Grenfell's reindeer experiment, although well intentioned, was not without its consequences. Unbeknownst to Dr. Grenfell some of the reindeer carried a parasite, *Elaphostrongylus rangiferi*, more commonly known as brainworm.

The parasite caused cerebrospinal elaphostrongylosis (CSE) in island caribou, and remained in Newfoundland after the reindeer were all gone. This disease, while severe and often fatal for caribou, does not affect humans.

The brainworm parasite has several different life stages from egg to adult. The nematode worm must live in two different hosts to complete its life cycle. The final host is the caribou, which contains the adult worm stage. The adult worm produces eggs that caribou excrete with their faeces, and the eggs hatch into larvae.

The intermediate hosts are snails and slugs, which crawl over the faecal pellets of infected caribou. Larvae grow in the snails and slugs, which caribou eat accidentally when feeding on vegetation. Larvae enter the caribou's stomach, migrate to the spinal cord and then to the brain, where they become young adults before traveling back down the spinal cord to the large

flat muscles in the caribou's shoulder blades and hindquarters.

Mature females then move to the large blood vessels, where they lay their eggs. Eggs are deposited in the

Consequences of the Reindeer Experiment

Even though Grenfell's actions were honorable, he didn't know his introduction of reindeer would have major implications for the Island's native caribou population long after the reindeer were gone.

lungs, where they are coughed up and swallowed. Once swallowed, they follow the digestive system and are excreted with the faeces to start the cycle over again.

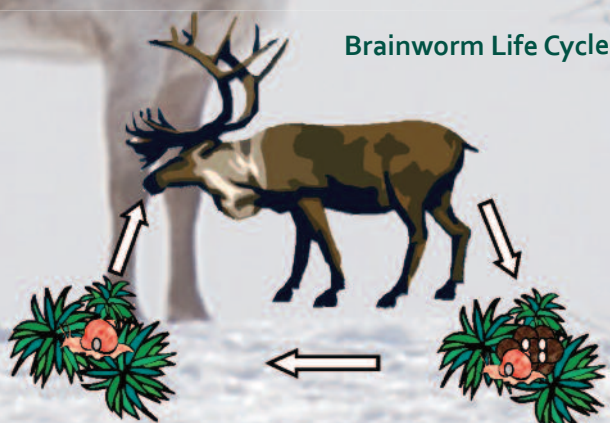
Caribou infected with brainworm show changes in their behaviour as a result of the young adult worms in the brain and spinal cord. Behavioural changes include losing their fear of humans, staying alone and in one location, disorientation, an abnormal walk and posture, and walking in a circle. These changes lead to changes in feeding behaviour and often results in death.

By the mid-1990's, all of the caribou herds on the island of Newfoundland, with the exception of the herds on the Avalon Peninsula, were found to be infected with brainworm (Ball et al. 2001).

Despite the infection, there were few reports of animals showing symptoms of the disease, although there had been reports of diseased animals in different herds in the years since the reindeer were introduced to Newfoundland.

In 1998, reports of sick animals in the Avalon caribou herd began to come in. These animals were exhibiting signs typical of brainworm infection. Winter survey work by the Wildlife Division demonstrated that the herd had decreased dramatically in numbers, from an estimated 8,000 to less than 2,000, and the adult male component of the population was very low (less than 5%).

Continued on Page 6



Graphic: **Parasites of Caribou: Brain Worm Infestation**
Department of Natural Resources
Animal Health Division



Continued from Page 5

Questions

about the status of the Avalon herd and the presence of brainworm in the other island herds stimulated research. Ball et al. (2001) undertook an extensive study to examine the conditions necessary for brainworm outbreaks to occur. They concluded that after the initial infection, caribou develop a limited immunity to brainworm. When the herd is first infected, death rates are high with males appearing more susceptible than females, resulting in a significant population decline and a drop in the proportion of males in the population. Surviving animals develop a resistance to the parasite and although they are infected, do not exhibit any symptoms of the disease. The herd then recovers.

Occasionally since 2000, various locations across the island have reported caribou exhibiting symptoms of brainworm. For previously infected herds, research suggested that the symptoms would become evident when the level of infection reached a critical threshold. Factors that could influence the level of infection included warm, wet conditions during spring and summer; these conditions are favourable for the development of the larvae and for movement of slugs and snails, making it more likely that caribou will ingest larvae.

In 2008, the Newfoundland and Labrador Government announced a five-year study to investigate the cause of the decline in island caribou populations. Predation was thought by many to be the main contributing factor, but other potential reasons, including habitat degradation from overabundance of caribou, human activities such as logging, and disease were also con-

sidered. Frozen faecal samples collected between 1999 and 2008 were analyzed to examine the persistence and detectability of brainworm (Dunphy 2009). Fresh samples were collected in 2008 from the three caribou herds on the Avalon Peninsula (Avalon, Cape Shore and Baie de Verde). The Avalon herd was known to be infected, but the Cape Shore and Baie de Verde herds were thought to remain brainworm free.

In the winter of 2009, reports began to come in of sick caribou in both herds. Subsequent analysis of the faecal samples confirmed that brainworm had reached the Cape Shore and Baie de Verde herds (Drover 2009). Population and classification surveys have since confirmed population declines for both herds, with changes in the proportion of males that is typical of brainworm infestation. The potential contribution of brainworm to the island-wide population decline is still being considered.

Sources:

Ball, M.C., Lankester, M.W. and Mahoney, S.P. 2001. *Can. J. Zool.* 79:1265-1277

Dunphy, K.M. 2009. *Observations on the Emergence of the Protostrongylid Nematodes in Insular Newfoundland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus terraenovae) Faecal Samples.* Honours thesis, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Drover, C. 2009. *A re-evaluation of the status of strongyloid larvae in three herds of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland, Canada 2008.* M.Sc. thesis, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the content of this special Christmas edition of **Our Wildlife**. This newsletter would not be possible without the extensive field work, data analysis, mapping and other tasks performed by our very dedicated staff.

The mandate of the Wildlife Division is to protect and conserve Newfoundland and Labrador's biodiversity and manage its wildlife and inland fish resources for the benefit of present and future generations. To deliver on this mandate requires an incredible amount of work, both in the field and at the office. It is our hope that these newsletters will provide a snapshot into the work of the professionals who are striving to fulfill this mandate, and to highlight the complex nature of wildlife research and management.

- Gerry Yetman

Top: "Students and boys hauling logs from the country with reindeer." Below: "Unidentified man with reindeer, during the winter." International Grenfell Association Lantern Slides Collection, Maritime History Archive, Memorial University Digital Archives Initiative



Our Wildlife

is the quarterly newsletter of the Wildlife Division. For more information, please contact:

Wildlife Division
117 Riverside Drive
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 7S1
(709) 637-2025

Box 3014, Station B
298 Centralia Road
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL
A0P 1E0
(709) 896-5007

Building 810
Pleasantville
PO Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6
(709) 729-2827

www.gov.nl.ca

Newsletter
coordination/design:
Linda Skinner
Wildlife Division

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division



Introduction to Story

On the following pages we reproduce the text of an address delivered to the St. John's Rotary Club by P.D.G. Arthur Johnson. Rotarian Tom Freeman introduced the speaker with the following remarks:

P. D. G. Arthur Johnson is a man of many parts. When I heard that he was going to address this Club on the subject of the late Hugh Cole's epic trek with reindeer in Northern Newfoundland in the early 1900s I was not altogether surprised. It did however become necessary to discover whence Arthur's great interest. That interest dated, I understand, from an occasion when he listened avidly to his father, Percy Johnson, and Dr. Grenfell, who were very good friends, talking about the herd of reindeer that the Mission had at St. Anthony. Thereafter he read everything that Sir Wilfred and others had to say about them. Arthur's interest was intensified when Hugh Cole who had had dramatic experience with Anglo Newfoundland Development's participation in the reindeer project, came to St. John's, joined Rotary and became a Member of the same Group as Arthur.

It did however come as a surprise, in view of all his other activities to learn that Arthur had been compiling a collection of material on the reindeer in Newfoundland for several years past. The late Hugh Cole, while he was with us, would never let Arthur tell the story of the reindeer trek, but Arthur feels that the time has come when Rotary should know of the reindeer adventure and the part played by this great Rotarian.

There is no point in introducing Past District Governor, Arthur Johnson, either to the Members here or to the radio public. He is too well known. He has, however, asked me if I will, at some length tell you something of Hugh Cole, almost as part of the main address and this I am very happy to do.

St. John's was highly fortunate in having Hugh Cole spend his years of retirement here, after over 40 years of honoured service with the Anglo Newfoundland Development Company. So was Rotary, his Group and the many other community efforts into which he threw his boundless energy. Always one of the first to volunteer for any activity, he was a Rotarian indeed and he lived Rotary.

Arthur has asked me to quote Hughie's biography from the record as Arthur feels it is really Hugh Cole

himself who is the speaker of the day through the Diary he kept during this reindeer adventure.

Hugh Cole had a long and eventful life. When he was 19 he came out to this side of the water from Surrey, England, with a good public school education and a remarkable athletic record. He went to the Canadian West and for two years did some farming work in Manitoba, some surveying in the first Grand Trunk Railway at the Soo and again on the timber limits in the Rockies. Then came a short stretch as cook in a lumber camp (and incidentally he was an expert cook thereafter all his life) and finally, briefly as Manager of a Hotel in Winnipeg.

At the age of 21 in April 1905 he came to Newfoundland as Assistant-Surveyor to Major Mike Sullivan. The pair in the next two years, surveyed all the timber limits of the A.N.D. Company. In this work Hugh firmly established a reputation that made him the choice to head up his history making reindeer expedition and eventually the choice as Woods Manager at Badger. There he spent his life, except for a period in the 1914-18 War when he was overseas as Captain with the Newfoundland Foresters.

As so-called "mayor of Badger", there were many of the older generation, and I include myself with them, who at one time or another enjoyed the welcome and bountiful hospitality there of Hugh and Eva Cole.

In his own time he was a legendary figure. Single-handed he put down the "Badger Riot". His name has gone down to posterity, in his praise in the famous song, "The Badger Drive".

However, Hugh Cole should be still more highly noted for his trek with the reindeer during the "Hard Winter" down the "roof" on the Northern Peninsula in 1908, when he was the principal character in an epic which should have its place in every Newfoundland History Book for its display of dedication, devotion and determination. It is this epic about which Arthur Johnson will speak to us today.

Of further interest

In 1907 the historian wrote: "On December 20, the press said, 'The A.N.D. Company have imported 50 reindeer for portaging supplies. Hugh Cole has gone to Lewisporte to receive them. Two families of Laplanders came to take care of the reindeer and a Mr. Saunders, a Swede, was the interpreter. It is interesting to note that they were kept outside of Millertown, for awhile, at a spot known as Lapland, but were afterwards taken overland to St. Anthony to Dr. Grenfell's mission, where after many experiments they were found to be unsuitable. Many of them provided a source of meat and gravy for the hungry French Shore residents.'"

FOLLOWING the success with reindeer in Alaska, the late Dr. Wilfred Grenfell and the late Sir Mayson Beeton of A.N.D. Co. in 1907 determined to bring out for Newfoundland 250 reindeer for St. Anthony and 50 for Millertown.

Because of delay caused by a late winter in Lapland the herd was all delivered at St. Anthony (put overboard in slob ice to swim ashore) on January 20, 1908.

Hugh Cole, plus the famous Indian Mattie Mitchell, and Tom Greening, Woods-Foreman of AND Company, undertook to go to St. Anthony on foot and drive these 50 animals and the Lapland family from St. Anthony to Millertown. Morris Sundine, Swedish-speaking mechanic of AND Company, was already at St. Anthony.

This trek they did and notably. 1908 was one of the worst winters on record. They had to leave the coast because the animals would break their legs on the smooth ice. The party was forced to take the route down the high wind-swept plateau with no food supplies. They did so with greatest devotion, without loss of an animal, and in the process suffered greatly including near starvation.

The aftermath was unfortunate: At Millertown the food was insufficient, the deer were shipped back to Grenfell. The reindeer herd prospered to 1500 in number but war conditions and poaching intervened. The remaining animals were shipped to Canada, and eventually died out at Anticosti Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

In the meantime, here is Hugh Cole's notebook diary—an epic of Newfoundland devotion, courage and fortitude. Hughie Cole ended up as "Mayor" of the huge AND woods operations at Badger, retired after 40 years to St. John's and ended a very useful life in community work, particularly as a Member of Rotary Services.

HUGH COLE'S REINDEER TREK DOWN THE NORTHERN PENINSULA OF NFLD.

1908, March 4 to April 30

(The Hard Winter)

ST. ANTHONY. Coastal to Canada Bay. Up to the Northern Plateau then down to Sop's Arm Head Waters. Westward over the Long Range Mountains down to Parson's Pond. Southward along the coast of Bonne Bay. Eastward to Deer Lake. Via Hinds Valley to Millertown. 58 DAYS — ABOUT 400 MILES — 50 REINDEER.

With an introduction concerning Reindeer and Caribou and the story of the Grenfell herd.

A GATHERING TOGETHER OF EXISTING INFORMATION

ARTHUR JOHNSON, St. John's, March, 1962.

It is fortunate that the story of the Reindeer in Newfoundland, 1908 to 1918, is as well documented and attested as it is, because it is in many respects a most interesting and a tragic piece of history.

Because human memories are fickle recorders, there are small points here and there where accounts do not quite agree, or "jibe" as we'd say, but the details are very minor, and do not at all affect the general Reindeer story nor the realism of the young (twenty-four year old) Englishman, Hughie Cole's, diary, written daily in a few words on the arduous trek down the Northern Peninsula.

AUTHORITIES

COLE & GRENFELL BIOGRAPHIES

PART 1

REINDEER, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CARIBOU.

Usefulness of Reindeer
Reindeer in Alaska
Our Reindeer to Fort Smith
Reindeer Drive from Alaska to The MacKenzie Delta
Fred Lawrence's Proposal of Reindeer for Lake Melville, Labrador
Alaskan Troubles

PART 2

THE PURCHASE OF THE REINDEER FROM LAPLAND BY GRENFELL

The A.N.D. Co. Join by Buying Fifty of the Reindeer
The Voyage across the Atlantic
The Landing at Cremaillere
Morris Sundine. Colonel Lindsay.
Laplanders in General
The Newfoundland Lap Herders

GRENFELL'S EXPERIENCE AT ST. ANTHONY:

1908 Excellent
Growth to over 1,500 by 1913
50 Sent Fort Smith 1912
Others Sent Elsewhere
Laps Went Home Outbreak War
Grenfell Went Overseas 1915-17
Dogs-Poachers-Government Laxity and Lack of Interest
Decimated Herd
Fence across Tip of Peninsula Proposed
Herd Down to 230 Reindeer
Grenfell Calls It Quits
Canadian Government Take over Remainder, 1918, and
125 Sent to Anticosti Island

Why Not Herd Newfoundland Caribou?

PART 3

THE MAIN NARRATIVE

Hugh Cole's Trip by Coastal Boat at Christmas 1907 to St. Anthony Accompanied by Morris Sundine
Hugh's Second Trip to St. Anthony Overland with Tom Greening and Mattie Mitchell

Dates and Distances

The Trek of the Herd to Millertown:
The Personnel of the Party
The Animals and the Equipment
Various Details

The Start to Canada Bay

The Change of Route to the Plateau. Necessitated by the Smooth Ice-Surface

Along the Top of the Plateau
Down to Cat Arm Headwaters
Stopped at Sop's Arm Waters

Starving for Food

The Food Expedition by Greening and Mitchell
Aid by Sop's Arm Livery Trappers
Return with Food

Westward over the Plateau and Long Range Mountains to Parson's Pond.

Mixing with Caribou. Lose Young Female to Caribou.
Swim St. Paul's
Down Coast to Bonne Bay
Trip to Deer Lake
Hugh Takes Advance Trip to Millertown
Party Divides at Deer Lake

Some by Train. Deer Lake to Millertown
Lose One Reindeer After Arrival. Broke Leg When Disembarking from Train

Trek of Main Herd from Deer Lake to Millertown via Hinds Valley
Arrangements and Corral at Millertown

Summer at Millertown
The A.N.D. Co. Error

Reindeer Returned to Grenfell
Increase in Number of Animals
Trek to Springdale
Shipment by Schooner and Coastal Steamer
The Lap Family Goes Back to Lapland via St. John's by RMS "Siberian" December 18th.

AUTHORITIES

Hugh's Cole's Diary, Talks and Conversations.
Dr. Sir Wilfred Grenfell's letters and writings.
Encyclopedia Britannica and others, etcetera.
"Labrador", by Grenfell and others — MacMillan publishers.
"Newfoundland and Its Untrodden Ways" — J. G. Millais.
"Romance of the Newfoundland Caribou" — A. Radclyffe Dugmore.
"Forty Years for Labrador", by Grenfell — Publishers: Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass.
"The Story of Grenfell of the Labrador" by Dillon Wallace.
Grenfell's Log on S.S. "Strathcona".
Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co. Ltd. Grand Falls, memos.
Captain Harry Walters, Wildlife Division, Province of Newfoundland.
*A. Thomas Bergerud, M.Sc., Wildlife Division, Province.
Files of Wildlife Division, Province.
Horace W. McNeill, Assistant Superintendent, Grenfell Mission, St. Anthony, for his father Ed and uncle Will McNeill. Reindeer Herdsmen.
Elihu Strangemore, St. Anthony.
"Reindeer Proposal for Labrador" by Fred S. Lawrence, F.R.G.S.
"Reindeer Project for Lake Melville by Fred S. Lawrence" — Harold Horwood, feature writer, "Evening Telegram".

Michael F. Harrington, Editor, "Evening Telegram",
 "Evening Telegram" columns.
 Albert B. Perlman, "Wayfarer", "Daily News".
 Eric Seymour, Editor, "Daily News".
 "The Great Reindeer Trek" (Alaska to MacKenzie Delta) by
 Ian MacNeill, in MacLean's Magazine, August 16, 1951.
 Gosling Memorial Library.
 And other miscellaneous sources.

* (Mr. Bergerud is in process of writing a comprehensive book
 on the Newfoundland Caribou which is being awaited with
 great interest).

TWO BIOGRAPHIES

HUGH HENRY WILDING COLE

1883 - 1960

Farnham, Surrey, England. Rugby, Cricket, Field Hockey.
 At age 19, 1902-5 Farming in Manitoba.
 First Grand Trunk Railway Survey at Soo
 Timber Survey in Rockies.
 Cooking in Lumber Camp.
 Hotel Manager in Winnipeg.
 At age 21, April 1905, came to Newfoundland with Harmsworth's
 A.N.D. Co., Grand Falls.
 Surveyed complete A.N.D. Timber Limits as assistant to (Major)
 Mike Sullivan 1906.
 Reindeer Drive, Christmas 1907 - April 30, 1908. Age 24.
 Superintendent of Logging at Badger till end of 42 years' service.
 Overseas with Foresters as Captain 1914-18.
 Retired 1946 from A.N.D. Co. highly honored.
 Consultant with Nfld. Tractor & Equipment Co. till death 1960.
 Consultant also with the Newfoundland Industrial Development
 Board.
 Joined Rotary in St. John's, February 27, 1947. Bulldozers Group.
 Boys Work-Activities, Canadian National Institute for the
 Blind, Victorian Order of Nurses, etc., etc.

SIR WILFRED THOMASON GRENFELL

M.D. Oxford and London Universities.

Medical Missionary, Master Mariner, and Writer.

CMG 1906, KCMG 1927.

In 1889 he joined the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, and
 cruised from the Bay of Biscay to Iceland. In 1892 he was
 transferred to Labrador (arriving at St. John's at the time of
 the Great Fire), and remained there, forming the International
 Grenfell Association, complete with Hospital Ship, 6 hospitals,
 7 nursing stations, orphanage-boarding schools, co-operative
 stores, and the King George V Seamen's Institute in St. John's.

Retired from active duty 1935 at age of 70. Died, still
 interested, in 1940 in Vermont at age of 75.

Like all Gaul, this story is divided into three parts:

The FIRST is: A brief introduction to the Reindeer and Caribou
 species.

The SECOND is: The purchasing, arrival, and history of the
 Grenfell herd.

and the THIRD is: Our main narrative, the trek by Hugh Cole
 with his Reindeer down the Northern
 Peninsula.

PART I REINDEER AND CARIBOU

A Brief Introduction to the Reindeer and the Newfoundland and Labrador Caribou Species.

Because there are records of the Grenfell and the
 Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company reindeer
 mixing with the native caribou, it is worth looking
 briefly at both species.

There was a certain amount of mixing of the rein-
 deer with the Northern Peninsula caribou, during
 Grenfell's eleven years of reindeer herding, and it is
 recorded that on occasion he purchased particularly
 fine caribou specimens from Southern Newfoundland
 and added them to his herd.

On the trek southward we shall see that Hugh
 Cole's A.N.D. Co. reindeer herded with the Northern
 Peninsula caribou at night and during snowstorms.
 In fact one of his young does permanently joined the
 caribou. Again, at the corral at Mary March River, the
 place was often left open in the later months, and the
 reindeer and caribou ranged together back and forth
 during the mating season.

It was stated by Grenfell also that two lots of
 twenty-five animals were sent to the "clubs", which
 presumably were at the Labrador Missions, since it was
 his intention at one period to introduce the reindeer to
 Labrador.

It is of interest that the same mixing of animals
 occurred in Northern Canada during the Alaska-
 MacKenzie Delta drive.

It is not expected that this small infusion of blood
 back and forth would affect the strains, but it is never-
 theless of interest in that it points to how possible it
 would be to set up a small "Reindeer" Industry at any
 time just with our own caribou and using the Northern
 Peninsula as a large natural corral and park.

In fact both Millais and Grenfell suggested the
 possible domestication on a large scale of our caribou.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND CARIBOU

A great deal of careful research and new concep-
 tion has been possible since the days of Millais, Dug-
 more, Grenfell and others of the earlier era. Not a
 little of this has been through the Wildlife Division in
 Newfoundland, and the up-to-date knowledge and
 observation is most interesting, based on experience
 with the half dozen herds of local caribou on the
 island and with the herds of Labrador.

In former years it was held that the caribou in
 Labrador were different from those of Newfoundland
 and were "Barrenland" brothers of the reindeer. Dr.
 Banfield of the National Museum now agrees that all
 caribou from Newfoundland to Fort Chimo, in spite of
 local variations, are essentially of the same "Woodland"
 classification. Research, study and protection are going
 on all the time in order to know more about and to
 preserve these gallant, noble and useful little animals.

Both Caribou and the Reindeer are of the same
 "Rangifer Tarandus" family, and both are easily
 domesticated when young.

Though gentle and timid, the animals are amaz-
 ingly hardy, and survive intense cold, scanty food and
 deep snow. They find all their own sustenance from

the reindeer mosses and similar eatables, no matter how deeply buried under snow and ice.

Peary found them as far north as the Arctic Circle, maintaining themselves well in spite of darkness, lack of ready food, and exposure.

Reindeer and caribou are found from Scandinavia, across Russia and Siberia, Alaska, Northern Canada, to Labrador and Newfoundland. In Northern Europe and Asia, and in Alaska and the MacKenzie Delta, they are domesticated as reindeer.

In fact caribou were once in every province of Canada and in a number of the northern United States. Today they do not occur in Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton Island, mainland Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick. The Newfoundland animal is the finest of all caribou because of its vigor and size which are ascribed to the suitable climate, and the plentiful food which is spread over wide ranges.

NEWFOUNDLAND HERDS

The Newfoundland herds number a total of about seven thousand animals. There is a month of open shooting season of stags each year. At present 300 licences are made available, and the kill is approximately 200. (This is in contrast to the Moose kill of some 7,000 animals).

There is some evidence that the Northern Peninsula caribou herd does not migrate into central Newfoundland. The variety of ranges available there on the plateau, bogs, hills and woods provided suitable all-year-round conditions. In March and April of 1908

we see Hugh Cole encountering them all over the plateau and towards the hills.

It is a common misconception that the Newfoundland caribou migrates southward for warmer areas in the fall and winter. Cold and wind apparently bother this wonderful little animal not at all. He is merely changing his pasture with the season. In fact in Newfoundland the movement generally is in an east and west direction as the various herds alternate between the feeding ranges of the barrens and bogs, hills and woods.

The caribou and reindeer doe breeds in her second year, sometimes in her first, and regularly has one and sometimes two calves each May-June. In six years Grenfell's reindeer increased from 300 to 1,500. With the caribou however, in their wild natural state in Newfoundland and Labrador, there is expected a larger mortality of calves. Calves which at birth may comprise 25-30% of the herd can be forecast to be reduced to 12-14% by the following March. With no losses other than from regular natural causes, caribou herds would therefore double each 8-10 years.

It has been this natural birthrate that has perpetuated the Newfoundland caribou in spite of the indiscriminate slaughter by the thousands in former years at locations such as Howley.

The Beothic Indians it is recorded built crude fences to direct the caribou to gaps where they could be killed with ease. It is of interest that the first speech to the Rotary Club of St. John's of November 1921 was

(Continued on page 25)

CHARLES R. BELL, LTD.

DISTRIBUTORS IN NFLD. FOR :

- JOHNSON Outboard Motors
- EVINRUDE Outboard Motors
- SABLECRAFT Fibreglas Boats
- G. M. Dieselite Generators
- GATOR Trailers
- BRYDON Brass Marine Accessories and Hardware
- KOHLER Lighting Plants
- AQUALITE Water Pumps

685 - 687 WATER ST.

DIAL 578-2131

REINDEER TREK

(Continued from page 6)

a plea to the public by a visting sportsman to put a stop to the wholesale, indiscriminate and unsportsmanlike slaughter of the herds of magnificent Newfoundland caribou during their migrations.

WIDE HOOFS

The caribou and reindeer family have large dew-claws or hooflets which help them in their migration by increasing the length of their splayhoofs and enabling them to travel over deep snow to escape wolves, dogs, and human enemies. They also cross bogs and other types of soft ground with ease. They can travel unbelievable distances in the course of a day. They are excellent swimmers and, beside the aid of their wide hoofs, they obtain additional buoyancy from the fact that each hair is hollow and contains air. When walking on hard ground the reindeer and caribou make a pronounced clicking with the impact of each hoof.

THE REINDEER

As stated, the reindeer and caribou find their own food, which in the fall and winter is reindeer moss (*cladonia rangiferina*). This contains a starchy substance called "lichenine" and a small quantity of sugar. The Russians brew it is a liquor.

The animals will however eat other lichens in the summer, "mall-dow" off trees ("Old-Man's Beard"—*usnea*), grass, hay, leaves, and similar vegetation. They can dig with their sharp hoofs through all but the most heavily ice-coated snow.

Reindeer range far during feeding and through the night. Ten to twenty miles, Grenfell found, meant nothing to the animals if they decided to move. Reindeer feeding hours were from daybreak to 11 a.m. This was interrupted by lying down till 4 p.m. followed by grazing till dark. They were quite tame and wandered right into the villages.

In order to milk reindeer and take care of them, it is necessary to have experienced herders, aided by reindeer herd dogs. Huskies and Labrador dogs are fierce hunters of reindeer and caribou.

CARIBOU AND REINDEER HEALTH

In order to determine the cause of a widespread abscess infection which resulted in heavy losses of caribou calves in Newfoundland in 1958 and 1959, research efforts of the Wildlife Division turned to the first pathological and parasitic investigation on a wide scale here. It is very interesting to note that their study records lungworm infection by the species "*Dictyocaulis (micruracaulis) eckerti*", to give it its technical name, which is common to European reindeer but had not before been isolated from North America caribou or deer.

The lungworm is a normal parasite in "reindeer". It is not in itself lethal but a contributing factor to debility which makes the animal susceptible to lethal disease. If the identification is correct, it is quite possible, and in fact probable, that this parasite was introduced into Newfoundland by the reindeer, and that this may have been a contributing factor to some of the mortality in Grenfell's herd at St. Anthony in its later years, and also at Fort Smith and Anticosti, where their grazing frequently over the same pasture would spread and intensify the infection. In fact Grenfell mentions

"MARK EVERY PLOT"

*Through
countless
generations*



WITH
MARBLE
THE SACRED
MEMORY
STONE

Carved
and Lettered
by

Skinner's Monumental Works

THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN

Write for Photos. State requirements
P. O. BOX 1371 ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

NIGHT or HOLIDAYS

PHONE 9-0475

**GEO. SUMMERS
& SONS**

TORBAY ROAD

GENERAL TRUCKING

We are equipped to handle all kinds of
Heavy Machinery

AT YOUR SERVICE AT ANY TIME

SEE US FOR YOUR

CROCKERY and GLASSWARE

REQUIREMENTS

**CUPS and SAUCERS — TEA SETS
DINNER SETS**

WATER SETS — BERRY SETS

**S. O. STEELE & SONS
LIMITED**

DIAL 8-6392

WATER STREET EAST

in one of his books that when his reindeer grazed too long in the same area they developed a mild type of pneumonia which however disappeared when the reindeer were moved to new pasture. It seems to confirm it.

A minor worrisome but not serious enemy of the caribou and reindeer is the Warble Fly (locally and elsewhere sometimes called the "Bot Fly"). This fly affixes its eggs to the hair near the skin. There the eggs hatch and the larvae bore through the hide, and move through the fascia between the hide and the skin to the back region. There these interesting little fellows bore breathing holes through the skin, and upon maturing emerge and drop to the ground where they finally emerge from their pupal cases to begin life as adult warble flies.

Another interesting pest to which the caribou and reindeer plays host is the Nostril Fly. These Nostril Flies are large, hairy and bee-like. They do not lay eggs but large numbers of minute larvae (maggots eventually) which they deposit in or near the animal's nostrils. Fortunately they do not seem to be harmful to any great extent, but they are of great annoyance to the caribou or reindeer. As the larvae mature in June-July, they detach themselves from the mucosa, and are reported to be coughed out by the foster parents.

FINE DRAFT ANIMALS

As may be gathered by their name "Rein-Deer, the Caribou "barrenland" deer have been used for centuries as draft animals for driving or hauling. A single leather strap which passes through the reindeer's legs to a leather, rope, or wooden collar is the standard harness. There is only a single rein attached to a

bridle which is just a halter. With this "rig" the intelligent animals are directed by a whistle and by throwing the rein over the opposite side to which the driver wants them to go.

Stags are used for driving, but for hauling loads, gelded stags commonly called "oxen", are more suitable, and more easily kept in condition.

A driving stag is very fast, much faster than a horse. A gelded stag is stronger in draft than a horse, and at least the equal of a team of four or five dogs, and he can pull all day steadily up hill and down through heavy snow. In fact Hugh Cole said in snow there were no animals to compare with them, with the footing given by their spread hoofs combined with their muscular power and their great willingness.

The fact that reindeer are polygamous and that each stag serves ten does means that there is always a plentiful surplus up to 90% available of young males for driving or hauling, with the balance for meat.

THE "PULKA" (LAP REINDEER SLIDE)

Santa's glossy red double-runner sleigh just doesn't exist except on the Christmas Cards. No reindeer would be found in front of one, and no Lap would ride one. The Lap reindeer slide is shaped like half a banana skin. In fact it is built like a solid boat about a foot high, two feet wide, and six feet long. It rides on a broad wooden keel. The Laps like it, but it is useless except on hard snow, and worse than useless in deep snow such as we get in Newfoundland. The pulkas were all replaced for actual service by Newfoundland native dogteam Komatics. By the way, the two Lap women in Hugh's party rode all the way, as is the Lap custom, first in the pulkas and then on the Komatics.

USEFULNESS OF REINDEER

No clothing, footwear, or equipment that did not derive from their reindeer were worn or used by his family of Laps, said Hugh. Every part of a reindeer is valuable. Alive they are unexcelled in hauling and driving, and the does give excellent milk.

Dead, their skins afford the best insulating cover known. In winter many reindeer turn white, and this coat is both attractive and as thick as coconut fibre matting. Reindeer and caribou skins are also in much demand by the Eskimo for covering their kayak canoes. It can also be made into fine leather for clothing, moc-casins, and other articles.

The stretched bowel makes an excellent parchment translucent window covering, and is used for bags for preserving and carrying meats and foods. Reindeer and caribou have six stomachs! The tendons and sinews make excellent laces. They swell when damp and so a seam in footwear, clothing, tents, coverings, and boats becomes securely watertight.

The reindeer is not a prolific milker, but what is lacking in quantity is made up in extreme richness. The milk is so thick it must be diluted several times, and it makes up into excellent butter and cheese which has the property of being non-freezing.

REINDEER IN ALASKA

The introduction of reindeer into Alaska from Siberia had begun in 1891. At first it was a small experiment. Then 1,200 reindeer had been imported by 1901, and at the time of Grenfell's enquiries the

K

OXFORDS

in 5 fittings

for every width

of foot

For perfect comfort your shoes must fit you perfectly. These fine K Oxfords are available here in five widths to each half size—from very slim to extra wide. That is why we can give you a fitting service second to none.



Parker & Monroe Ltd.

THE SHOE MEN

herd had grown tremendously and was highly successful.

The scheme had been at the insistence of the Reverend Doctor Sheldon Jackson, F.R.G.S., chief of the Education Department of Alaska. He was the prime mover and author.

(It is sad that as later mentioned the Alaskan project was eventually to suffer from over-development and drop in a few years from a million reindeer to about 30,000 as it stands of today).

Dr. Grenfell went to Washington to meet Dr. Jackson, and received warm encouragement and full advice and assistance.

To Grenfell the Reindeer seemed to promise the answer to much of the rickets, scurvy, and in some measure the tuberculosis problems of Northern Newfoundland and Labrador.

After all, here was a tame, hardy, self-feeding, multiplying animal which would provide meat and milk for food, fur and leather for clothing, and also other materials for local use and for a number of good folk-industries. Only when used for heavy hauling or driving would reindeer need supplementary feeding.

The money was raised, principally through a fund started by the "Boston Transcript", but also through a contribution by the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Part of the latter agreement was that Grenfell would give them fifty animals when his herd warranted it.

OUR REINDEER TO FORT SMITH

After four years, with his herd of 300 reindeer increased to 1200, Grenfell made good his bargain and asked the Canadian Government in 1912 to pick up their fifty.

This they did. The Light-House Tender "Montmagny" called for the animals, and the reindeer via Montreal eventually reached Fort Smith on the Great Slave River at the edge of the Peace River Country in North West Territory not far north of the Alberta boundary.

With them went three excellent Newfoundland herders, William McNeill, Nathaniel Gear and John Broomfield, and one of the families of Laps.

The history of the herd is unfortunate. The Fort Smith climate was unsuitable, and flies and disease eventually wiped them out. Reindeer do not do well in a dry country.

The Newfoundland herders found other employment, the Laps having gone home at the outbreak of War in 1914. It was announced in a 1961 government publication that Billy McNeil had recently retired at Fort Smith and an account was given of the 1912 reindeer experiment.

THE REINDEER TREK FROM ALASKA TO THE EAST MOUTH OF THE MACKENZIE RIVER DELTA (Christmas 1929—February 1935)

The great troubles of the MacKenzie reindeer trek provide emphasis to the determination and devotion and the high success of Hugh Cole's Newfoundland drive in 1908.

The object of the MacKenzie trek was to drive 3,000 reindeer from the then great Lomen herd in

Alaska to corrals made ready at the eastern mouth of the MacKenzie Delta about 1,800 miles away, and to set up herds for the benefit of starting a Reindeer industry for the Eskimo.

The journey was expected to take a year. Actually it took five. Here is the story of the progress: 200 miles the first year; 100 miles the second; it was only during the third that they got across the Alaskan Border into Canada. At the end of the fourth year they reached the western edge of the MacKenzie Delta and started their crossing. After this they abandoned the herd, and later got back the remnants. In the fifth year, thanks to the aid of additional herders, including those still waiting for four years at the corral who crossed the Delta from the east to get to them, they finally got the herd across.

It was a grim experience for the Lap and Eskimo herders and most of their charges. Only the head herder finished the trip; all the rest had given up at one time or another; it was only the assistance of the herders from the east that brought the reindeer to their destination. The herd had started out 3,000 strong and should by that time have risen to about 10,000. Actually there were only 2,370. It was estimated that few if any of the original animals survived, and the herd was composed only of young reindeer born during the last few years.

By latest available count there are only some 7,600 reindeer still in the Delta instead of at least 200,000 by normal increase. Of these, 3,600 are in herds operated by the Government, and 4,000 in Eskimo herds.

The main reason for a slow rate of progress has been that the Eskimo consider them put there as food to be freely slaughtered without regard for the future, or for looking after them as an industry. The Eskimo has taken little interest in them except to slaughter them in large numbers.

Gradually a programme of recruitment of young Eskimo to take up herding is gaining ground, and eventually the project of creating an All-Eskimo Industry for the benefit of the Eskimo should succeed.

Run as a regular "cattle-ranch" project with plenty of range and with the same high degree of skill, equipment, and marketing, reindeer-ranching can be a successful, practical and profitable operation.

PROPOSAL BY FRED LAWRENCE FOR A REINDEER OPERATION AT LAKE MELVILLE

Such a project was advocated just before the Second World War for Lake Melville, Labrador, by the noted Frederick S. Lawrence, F.R.G.S., Explorers Club, etc.

Lawrence was an international figure known for his pioneering of the Peace River Country. He had in mind a full-fledged 25,000-reindeer operation similar to that of the Lomen Alaska Reindeer Corporation with a million-acre grazing range and provision for further expansion.

A 1937 manifesto to Commission of Government by the noted conservationist William Monypeny Newson, one of the partners, said something which is most

interesting to us viewed in 1962: "The Reindeer Project is a golden opportunity to turn Labrador from a liability to an asset. Labrador is an extremely poor country, chiefly known in New York (Newsom was a New Yorker) for the donations needed to help the inhabitants in one way and another. Other than a few trappers, only on the coast can a man make a living."

Some of this may have been correct if we overlook the magnificent stands of straight black spruce, and the iron ore deposits known even then. Yet in no less than four years from 1937 there was to be a giant international airport full of thousands of his own USAF and of RCAF planes and personnel right on Lake Melville at Goose Bay, and in a few years more the mighty Hamilton Falls leading into it and the Western Labrador Iron Mines were to be recognized for their full worth, possibly exceeding even that of the great resources of the Island of Newfoundland.

In 1937 a survey was made and the area pronounced eminently suitable. The Reindeer Agreement Act was duly passed. But protracted negotiations and the large capital required slowed up the deal. The War broke out, and the project had to be abandoned.

OTHER EXPERIMENTS

In late October 1921 the Hudson Bay Company brought a herd of reindeer to Amadjuak, Baffin Land, from Norway to act as the nucleus of stock for the Eskimo. In 1922 the State of Michigan experimented with putting 50 doe and 10 stag reindeer from Norway on its denuded timberlands. Both attempts for

differing reasons ended in failure. We shall also tell of the failure of the Anticosti herding later in the narrative.

ALASKAN TROUBLES

The decline of the Alaskan herds of reindeer in a very few years from over a million animals in the Thirties to less than 30,000 today is cited as the classic example of permitting an animal to over-graze its range. Not only were the reindeer decimated, but so also were the Alaskan caribou because of the over-grazing by the reindeer herds.

After failure to interest the native Alaskan Eskimo in herding rather than killing off the reindeer as they would caribou, the Government leaned towards setting up the reindeer as an Alaskan commercial enterprise.

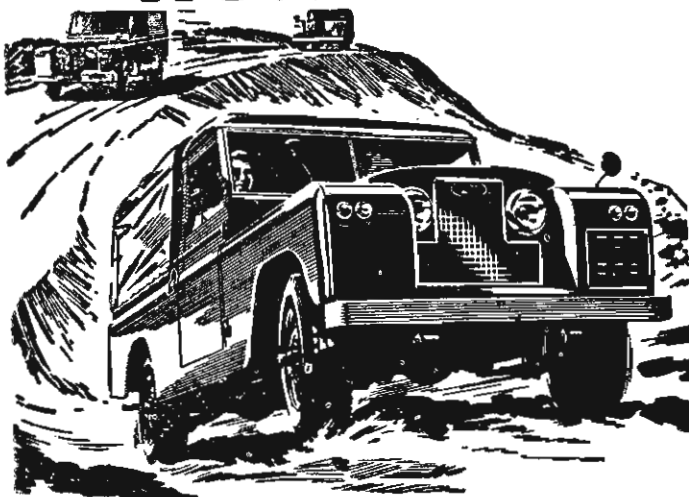
This gradually brought about the great Lomen Reindeer Corporation which flourished for a number of years with its large ranches, central packing and freezing plants, canning plants, tanneries and first class veterinary and sanitary care throughout. The products found and still find ready markets in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

The huge reindeer herds gradually devoured the ranges of reindeer moss and lichens till there were no more, and with the ranges disappearing, so did the reindeer herds and unfortunately also the caribou. It was a sad story.

—Next issue Part Two "The Purchasing, Arrival and General Story of the Grenfell Reindeer Herd."

LAND-ROVER

THE GO ANYWHERE VEHICLE



THE WORLD'S MOST VERSATILE VEHICLE

For Demonstration
and Price contact—

ADELAIDE MOTORS, LIMITED

P. O. BOX 40

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

PHONE 9-5220

HUGH COLE'S REINDEER TREK DOWN THE NORTHERN PENINSULA OF NFLD.

PART TWO

The Purchasing, Arrival and General Story of the Grenfell Reindeer Herd.

THE PURCHASE OF THE REINDEER

DR. GRENFELL can be said to have left nothing to chance at that time in founding his reindeer venture. What information was available in those early years about the reindeer family he gathered. Besides his interviews with Rev. Dr. Jackson and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, and by additionally exhaustively obtaining information on reindeer and the successful Alaskan operation, Grenfell checked at home. He assessed the matter of climate in the Northern Peninsula and Labrador, and found the cool, damp, bracing conditions would suit excellently.

The various varieties of lichens were listed as suitable food. Sir William MacGregor, Governor of Newfoundland, who was personally very interested in the project, sent specimens of the mosses to Kew Gardens, London, for him for actual checking and testing. Lord Strathcona was also very interested.

Grenfell also determined that nothing but the best Reindeer stock from Lapland itself should be used, and with that he included Lap Rein-

deer herd dogs, Lap herder families, Lap equipment, and Lapland dried reindeer moss as their original food.

As has been stated, the money for the purchase was raised through the help of the Boston "Transcript" plus a grant from the Canadian Department of Agriculture.

The actual purchase was negotiated by Francis H. Wood of London. The sale was through a Lap contractor, Israel N. Malla, on July 29, 1907, and the bill of sale called

for the following to be delivered at the beach at Altenfjord on the north coast of Lapland, Latitude 71°:

300 Reindeer, comprised of 250 three-year-old prime does (mostly pregnant), 25 tame gelded-stag draft-oxen four-year-old, and 25 three-year-old buck stags, some broken to harness as driving-stags.

It also called for 500 loads of reindeer moss for the voyage, as well as a supply necessary for feeding the reindeer while waiting at the beach for the ship.

There were to be eight well-trained reindeer herd-dogs (half of which were for A.N.D. account), and provision of four families of competent Lap herders.

A number of "Pulka" Lap slides, and simple harness for them, were in the contract, and these will be described later.

It is of interest that \$8.50 was paid in the first instance for each reindeer, which became \$16.74 landed on board, and finally delivered at St. Anthony they averaged \$51.49.

THE VOYAGE

The chartered steamer was the "Anita", and she had had individual stalls built for the reindeer. It was well she had them because of the long rough trip she was to encounter.

The cost of the charter was \$1,750 with a bonus to the Captain of .50c. a head for every reindeer landed in good condition. In spite of the trip and eventually "landing" of the animals offshore into slob-ice water, the Captain earned his full \$175. Neither did the insurers have any loss. The premium was "\$38.88 per cent less \$13.50 as a no-claim bonus".

FIFTY REINDEER WERE FOR THE A.N.D. CO.

The charter terms were for delivery of fifty of the reindeer to the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co. Ltd. at Lewisporte, and 250 at St. Anthony to the Grenfell Mission. It is of interest that the A.N.D. Co. paid £513/19/2 for its reindeer, plus £5/10/0 for its four reindeer herd dogs, and had advanced £32/17/6 to the Lap family it engaged.

MID-WINTER PASSAGE

There was a vexatious delay in getting away from Lapland. It was partly because snow had come there

late that year, and it was necessary to have snow to make possible the hauling to the landwash of the 500 loads of reindeer moss for feeding the animals during the voyage, plus the quantity necessary for the daily feeding of the reindeer while waiting for transport.

The ship did not get away from Altenfjord till December 30, 1907, and it was twenty-one days rough wintery weather all the way across. Getting into Lewisporte had been of course found impossible because at that time of the year Notre Dame Bay was frozen solid.

LANDING AT CREMAILLÈRE

In fact St. Anthony was icebound. The nearest approach was to stand off in Cremaillere Bay in slob ice. This is about eight miles south by seashore and three miles overland from St. Anthony.

They had to put the whole cargo of reindeer, dogs, humans, equipment and fodder overboard on the slob ice. With the aid of assistance from the shore by boats, and dog-teams where possible, everything was wrestled ashore. But the reindeer went into the water, either directly or after a few steps.

They swam off in all directions, some of them far out to sea, over the horizon, as though heading back home to Lapland. But miraculously none were lost. The Lap herders put bells round the necks of some of the steadier animals which had come directly to shore, and tethered them for a couple of days along the shore, and finally every animal made its way there, and they were all gathered together without a single loss.

This was additionally remarkable because an inshore wind sprang up next night and the "Anita" was caught and driven inward on the rocks, being only saved by considerable effort and at the cost of a fair amount of damage.

A.N.D. CO. INTEREST

(Sir) Mayson Beeton of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co. Ltd. at Grand Falls had become very interested in the venture along with Governor MacGregor. His thought was along lines somewhat different from that of Grenfell. He wanted the reindeer for hauling pulpwood and supplies in the winter, at which they would be superior to horses. They would also be useful as a

source of meat and milk for the camps.

The plan had been to have the reindeer and their Lap family of herders and the equipment put off at Lewisporte, as we have seen but now they knew their destination in December would have to be St. Anthony. The decision was made to drive the herd down the sea ice to Hampden at the head of White Bay and overland via Kitty's Brook to Millertown in the interior.

No one could know that about twenty years later it would take a party of 62 Lap and Eskimo herders five years to drive a herd four times as far from Alaska to the MacKenzie Delta suffering great hardship, dur-

**A Gathering
Together of
Existing Information
by
ARTHUR JOHNSON
St. John's**

ing which hardly an original animal survived, and only the leading herder finished the trek.

Even the immediate condition was overlooked by the A.N.D. Co. that it would be midwinter with all its risks and exposure. There would be no reindeer moss for the reindeer along the coast, and in fact there would be long stretches where there would be no food for either the humans or any of the animals.

As we shall see, this direct route was closed to them, leading to our special Hugh Cole story.

CHRISTMAS VISIT

These were the days of slow communication and no one knew of the progress of the ship with the deer on board, nor probably even the date of departure.

As leader of the expedition, this young Englishman, Hugh Cole, and Morris Sundine, a Swedish mechanic, took off by coastal boat for St. Anthony to await the arrival of the reindeer, reaching St. Anthony on Christmas Day 1907.

MORRIS SUNDINE

Morris Sundine's native language was Swedish, which the Laps would understand. He was to act as interpreter for Grenfell's herders at St. Anthony before he left with the A.N.D. reindeer trek, and of course along the way to Millertown. (Actually after a few days on the trek everyone in the party could make themselves understandable by a few words and signs, the brightest being the Lap daughter who was deaf and dumb).

Historically Sundine is of interest in Newfoundland, because he was the second generation of the fine Swedish families that came out with that great Scots lumberman Lewis Miller who came out to Lewisporte and Millertown. It calls to mind the Lindahls (Signe Hunt is a daughter), the Hansons, the Johannsons, the Johnsons and others who lent great strength to the establishment of the Miller industries which were merged in turn into the A.N.D. Co.

Sundine stayed on at St. Anthony through January till the arrival of the reindeer. Hugh went back, finishing his journey overland by dog-team from Springdale. He was to start out again, all the way on foot from Deer Lake, on January 27th.

LT. COL. W. G. LINDSAY

Here at St. Anthony they met Colonel W. G. Lindsay, a retired Army officer from Cork, Ireland, who had had some cattle ranching experience in Mexico. He was a friend of Dr. Grenfell's and had volunteered to look after the reindeer project. He paid his own passage out and eventually back. Lindsay proved a dedicated person and actually slept out in a camp all winter and summer with the reindeer herd, said Grenfell.

THE LAPS

Three Lap families came with the reindeer. One family went with the A.N.D. Co. trek, one stayed with the Grenfell herd till War I. broke out, and the other left St. Anthony in 1912 with the fifty reindeer that went to Fort Smith NWT. Three Newfoundland herders, Bill MacNeil, Gear and Broomfield, as we saw, also went along. This Lap family at Fort Smith also left for home at the outbreak of War I. (Hugh Cole's Laps had gone back by the Allan Liner R.M.S. "Siberian" December 18, the same year they arrived, 1908,

after the A.N.D. Co. herd were sent back to St. Anthony).

Hugh Cole's description of the Lap family is very terse: "Laplanders are a peculiar-looking race. Their skin is very white, but they are very tanned in the exposed parts. Their clothes are all of various types of reindeer skins. They wear no socks, but instead stuff their lannigans, with hay. They dress alike, so that it is not easy to distinguish men from women".

Hugh had a hard time on the trail trying to get his Laps to co-operate and in the face of adversity to do what obviously must be done. We shall go back later to his story in connection with his own particular family of herders.

Grenfell, too, found the Laps difficult. The custom was to turn the reindeer loose in the daytime, and with two reindeer herders and their reindeer herd dogs it was possible to keep in touch with them without much effort and to herd them together at night. In spite of this comparatively easy life, and Newfoundland herders being added as the herds increased, the Laps continually complained.

The climate did not suit them, being too damp, they said. They insisted that there should be a ten-mile fence built so as to make a natural corral on the peninsula between the bottom of Pistolet Bay and the bottom of Hare Bay. They missed the presence of wolves to keep the reindeer together for protection. Above all they wanted more pay in spite of their contract, and having been given more, wanted still more. Eventually in spite of their knowledge and skill Grenfell was glad when they left.

GRENFELL'S EXPERIENCE

Grenfell's greatest trouble was first of all with the dogs. Just as sheep and dogs cannot exist together, neither can reindeer and dogs.

The reindeer's second enemy was the human predators, to use a nice word too good for them. The voters complained to the Government that here were animals which were just the same as caribou and in fact often bred with the caribou, and yet in time of shortness of food for their families, here was Grenfell wanting to fine them and put them in jail for knocking off a stray animal.

It was no use for the Doctor to say that these animals were just as valuable to the Mission as cattle, that they were all branded, and in fact were worth over \$50 apiece. A voter being worth more than a reindeer, the authorities were slow in putting teeth in the law.

The War came and with more pressing matters and food shortages, the preservation of reindeer was low on the list. The Laps left for home, Grenfell went to France with the Harvard Surgical Unit from 1915 to 1917, and on his return found his herd shrunken from 1500 animals to 230.

Grenfell at once offered what was left of the herd to the Canadian Government, and they accepted them. It was ironic that just as the bargain was completed the Newfoundland Government offered much of the assistance previously withheld.

In the light of subsequent knowledge it is believed by the researchers that more extensive grazing range should have been used, and suspicion that there must have been lung disease in the herd because of the later experience at Anticosti. Be that as it may, it does not excuse the poaching that went on by the very people the reindeer were benefiting. It was a dark and very disappointing chapter for Sir Wilfred and the Grenfell Mission.

The chapter closed with the sending of some 125 survivors to St. Augustine, Rocky Harbour on Quebec Labrador by Mission Steamer and vessel, and thence to Anticosti Island where they died out a poor specimen of the fine animals which once grazed the Newfoundland Northern Peninsula.

EXCELLENT EARLY RECORDS

Grenfell's early results with the reindeer were excellent. The combined herds started with 300 animals. In spite of their strenuous experience, the 250 does produced 185 fawns in May-June. At St. Anthony the pattern was begun of having one reindeer torn to pieces by dogs, and one shot by a fisherman. Hugh as we shall see had one of his does desert him for the caribou, and another doe after getting successfully to Millertown broke a leg jumping from the train. His fawns numbered 25. The reindeer total in Newfoundland of 300 had become 481.

Sir Wilfred states that thereafter he obtained one or two fawns each year from practically every doe. As we saw, in spite of the occasional loss by dogs, poachers and accidents, and killing one stag every two weeks for the hospital, sending off the fifty animals to Fort Smith and two lots of 25 to the Labrador (?) Clubs, the herd numbered 1,200 in 1912 and 1,500 in 1913.

With today's knowledge of scientific care of the animals and the extreme danger of over-population, and with co-operation of the people and the government, success could have been achieved. Through a combination of circumstances, regretfully it turned out otherwise, in common with a number of other reindeer projects in North America. Probably the Lawrence ranching would have met with success at Lake Melville, but again, who knows? Perhaps we could start again sometime, herding our own caribou.

Out of the reindeer project at least came the Hugh Cole reindeer trek, to write an epic in Newfoundland history.

Part Three Continued on Page 8

A Thought

*Around our tiny home
A North-Easter blows.
Snow piling upon the walls
And covers my summer rose.*

*My heart is young—but my
body is old,
As I long for the emerald sea,
But the die is cast and let
well be what be—*

*As the night draws into dawn,
I think o'er the years—
What I might have done.
And I fall in my bed in tears.*

—A. Barss.

PART THREE—THE MAIN NARRATIVE

Hugh Cole's Trek

A notable part of the Hugh Cole achievement is, not only the adversities met and conquered, but the devotion and dedication exhibited to bringing this herd of reindeer safely to the Company at Millertown without loss and in first class condition.

There was never the slightest consideration of refusing to take the reindeer up over the "roof" of the Northern Peninsula, where there was no food for the humans, and where the reindeer would have at times to be mostly hand-fed by plucking sufficient "mall-dow" from the spruce trees late into the night.

There was no hesitation about braving the elements raging that March and April which might have endangered their very lives. With the reindeer right with them presenting delicious vension on the hoof, when they were literally starving, there was no question of sacrificing even a little one of their charges.

It took great dedication, devotion and determination to pull through the ordeal without the loss of a single animal. The Newfoundland story should give full credit to this notable exploit and to those taking part.

We shall see who they were and an indication of their performances during the enfolding of the narrative. The diary of Hugh Cole, compiled from his notebooks pencilled along the way, is given verbatim as an appendix at the end of the collection.

VISIT TO ST. ANTHONY

LET us first go back to the point where Hugh Cole and Morris Sundine arrive at St. Anthony at Christmas 1907, expecting the ship and the reindeer. There was still no definite word, even of the ship's being on her way, and Hugh decided he himself had to get back and discuss first hand with the Company their exact wishes in view of the new set of circumstances.

Hugh with good luck got as far as Little Bay by coastal boat, "Prospero", and made the rest of the way by hired dog team, obtained for him through Magistrate Wells, running into considerable trouble when the drivers refused to face the elements prevailing, and he had to use considerable physical "encouragement" — which he was well able to do.

A.N.D. CO. DECIDES.

The Company's decision was that the reindeer should be brought to Millertown (in a bad midwinter "sealing-disaster" weather) down the coastal-ice (bare of food for reindeer or humans) and then across the frozen rivers and the valleys (equally devoid of food for the humans) to Millertown.

The Company had every confidence in Hugh Cole who, although only a young fellow who had been with them but two years, had proved himself capable of initiative, resourcefulness and leadership.

PRELIMINARY TRIP

Hugh Cole and Tom Greening were to go to Deer Lake by train, and on to St. Anthony by snowshoe and a dogteam, picking up Mattie

Mitchell at Norris Point, Bonne Bay, on the way.

Tom Greening was a first class A.N.D. woods foreman, and Mattie Mitchell was the famous Micmac Indian guide who with Will Canning found the Buchans mine. We shall hear more of these two dauntless men later.

This preliminary trip proved to be a whole story to itself, as the two men, and later the three men, fought their way through bad weather and worse "going" to Norris Point, and then through increasingly bad weather down the coast to Hawke's Bay. The Indian developed erysipelas along the way, Greening "the gripe".

Hugh's diary (as you can see at the back) is full of recorded troubles:—"Three feet of snow; adheres to

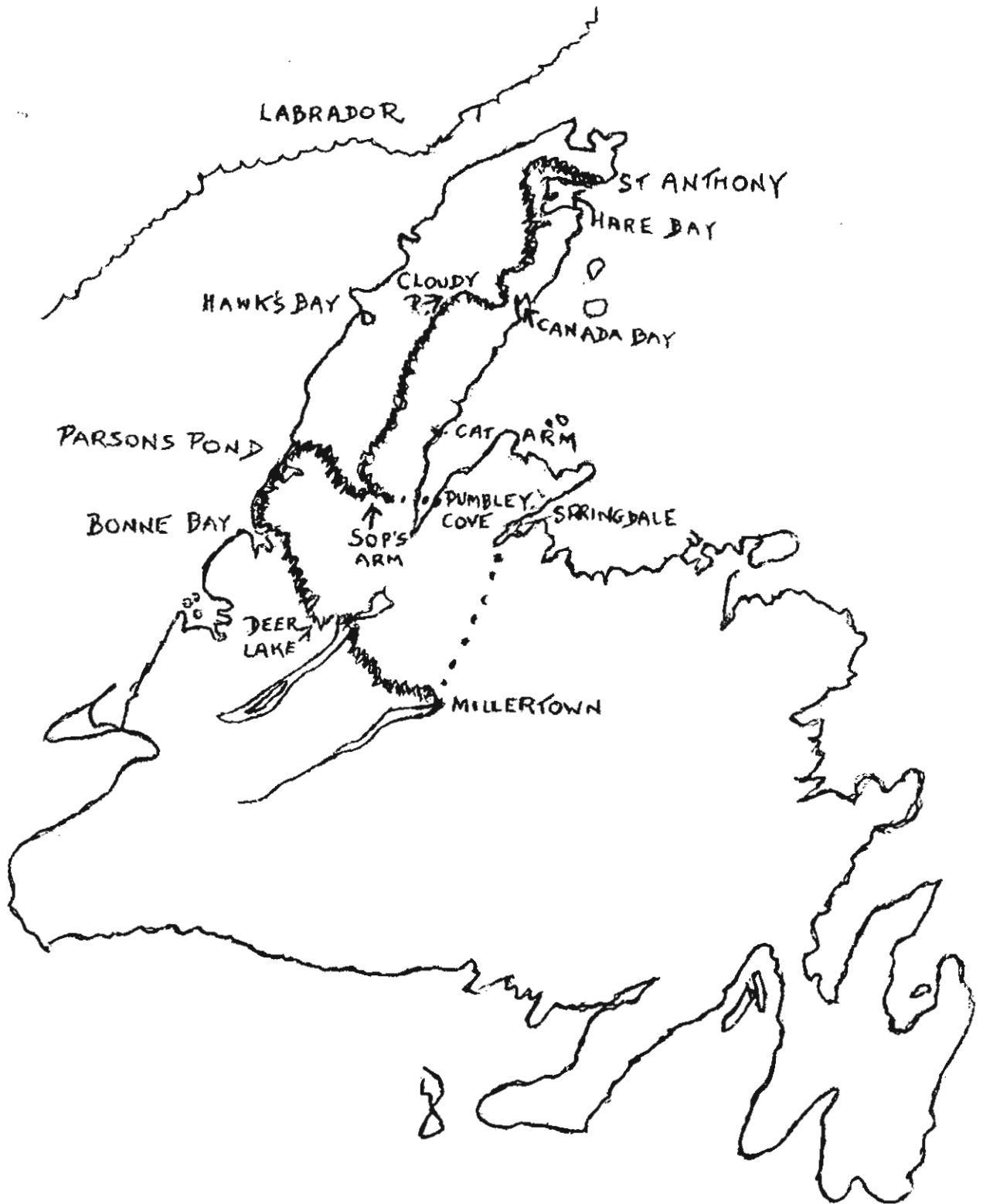
runners of slide; made only four miles; raining incessantly making travel impossible; treacherous trail all the way; slide and snowshoes badly damaged; after 17 days on the trail (at Portland Creek), for the first time on the journey we put up a camp; had to buy an extra dog; encountered terrific storm crossing over the hills and plateau between Hawke's Bay and Canada Bay; had to shelter by camp at Cloudy Brook".

At Hawke's Bay they had picked up William Uland who guided them through the storms over the trail eastward, crossing the Long Range Mountains to Canada Bay. From there on up to St. Anthony along the Bay ice the weather improved and, having taken twenty-eight long days in spite of their eagerness always to press on, they arrived without further incident at their destination.

The four weeks were a fore-taste of the tough going and hardship that lay ahead of them in the next eight weeks and four hundred miles.

AT ST. ANTHONY

There they found the reindeer had settled down into their Newfoundland surroundings, but successive deposits of "glitter" on the snow-crust had made it difficult for the reindeer to get the feeding they needed after the diet of dried moss on which they had existed for the previous month or more. In fact, as Hugh said, the reindeer were



the
wn

the
nes

we
of,

f a
ing

ra-
as

our
ing
rail
oes
the
the
up
og;
ing
en
iad
k".

red
em
rail
ige
om
ng
ed
ng
al-
th-
ia-

ste
rip
xt
es.

ad
id-
ve
w-
he
ey
oss
he
ct,
re

really still in poor shape to undertake the hard trek to Millertown.

THE DIARY

While Hugh's diary, at the back, speaks largely for itself, it still should be regarded primarily as "notes". The original jottings would be made in small pocket note books in the form of a diary kept as a kind of log. At a later date the notes were dictated, still in much the same form, to a stenographer.

In order to enjoy their full flavor it is necessary to add to the narrative the comments made by Hugh in some of his conversations and talks. The fixing of dates, locations, details and general highlights is also valuable to the story of the trek.

A Check on the personnel and equipment on the St. Anthony-Millertown

Trek

1. Hugh Cole, the Englishman.
2. Morris Sundine, the Swede.
3. Tom Greening, AND, woods foreman.
4. Mattie Mitchell, Micmac guide.
5. Aslie Sombie, 65, head of the Lap herder family.
6. His wife, 63.
7. Son, Pere, 30.
8. Daughter, Maretta, 32, deaf and dumb.

EQUIPMENT

At Deer Lake Hugh Cole and Tom Greening set out with: 5 local dogs, 1 dog-slide, week's food, camping outfit.

At Creek Pond Hugh bought another dog, making six. This included "Black" and "Kruger", the two we have record of surviving. Some of the other dogs, if not all, died of exhaustion and exposure on the food-expedition to White Bay.

There were according to Grenfell's record 4 Lap herd-dogs, at least one Lap Pulka slide (which was not used after they encountered the deep snow—it is not determined whether it was still brought along without a load, but it probably was).

Hugh had bought another dog-slide at Englee, to carry the food bought there. There was a small supply of dried moss also.

The reindeer herd was 50. There were 4 of these driving-stags (three-year-old), 6 were white-coated gelded-stag draft-oxen (four-year-old), and 40 three-year-old prime does most of them in fawn.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

March 1908

- 3rd. St. Anthony
- 4th. Lock's Cove
- 5th. Detour round Hare Bay (added 40 miles)
- 6th. Round Belvie Bay
- 7th. **Main Brook Pond**
- 8th. Snowing heavily
- 9th. Snowing heavily
- 10th. **Foot of Canada Bay**
- 11th. Took to the Hills
- 12th. **Head of Cloudy Brook**
- 13th. Bad going. Stag bitten.
- 14th. Too bad to travel (snowing and blowing)
- 15th. Very foggy a.m. (Difficult round-up)
- 16th. Started to break-in hauling-oxen reindeer to harness.
- 17th. 7 below. Wind and Snow. Very bad weather.
- 18th. **White Hills. Caribou ranging with reindeer.**

End of sixteen days

- 19th. First fine day. 5 below.
- 20th. 7 feet snow, but fine.
- 21st. Good day's travelling, but **Laps now snowblind.**
- 22nd. Snow and blow again.
- 23rd. Same. Reindeer astray.
- 24th. Reindeer back. Snow and gale. Then rain.
- 25th. **Abandoned Lap pulka slides.** Too much snow for them. 7 below again and blizzard.

26th. Cat Arm Head-waters.

End of twenty-four days

- 27th. Blizzard. Made way up 300 feet. Snow.
- 28th. Made way to branch of **Sop's Arm Head-waters. Snow. Food gone. Made a camp.**

End of twenty-six days.

- 29th. **Sent Greening and Mitchell down to coast** for food. Snow and blow, turning to blizzard. Conserving energy in camp.
- 30th. to April 5th. **Worst weather of winter. No food. Anxiety** over Greening and Mitchell.

End of thirty-fourth day.

APRIL

- 6th. A fine day broke, and Greening Mitchell both arrived with Sop's Arm men bringing food obtained at Pumbley Cove across White Bay.
- 7th. **Started off westward toward Parson's Pond** up the hills across the plateau and over the Long Range Mountains.

8th. to 12th. Heavy snowing and blowing. **Herd travelling through hills.** Trouble with snow blowing through camp. **Doe joined Caribou.**

13th. and 14th. **Weather bettering** as approach west coast.

15th. Got reindeer down a cut found in the 2000 foot mountains to **Parson's Pond.**

End of forty-fourth day.

16th. Snow and blow again.

17th. **Swam reindeer across St. Paul's Inlet Bight.**

18th. Green's Point.

20th. Bonne Bay.

24th. Deer Lake.

End of fifty-third day.

April 30th. **Herd arrived Millertown.**

End of fifty-eighth day.

About 400 miles covered.

SEPARATING HERDS

Hugh, Greening and Mitchell reached St. Anthony on February 1. They had set out from Millertown on foot January 25th as soon as hearing the reindeer had finally arrived. Aided by Sundine, Colonel Lindsay, Dr. Grenfell and the two male Lap herders allotted the A.N.D. Co., Aslie Sombie and his son Pere, they finally separated their fifty reindeer from the other 250. The job took twelve days, mainly because of weather.

It will be remembered the animals had arrived only on January 20 after a rough twenty-one day voyage and had had to swim ashore. There was a lot of "glitter" on the snow which formed a heavy crust and prevented them feeding well. They were therefore not in good condition to face an arduous trek.

Moreover, practically all the does were heavy with fawn after their October mating and preparatory to their bearing in May-June. (Some of the fawns as we shall see were still-born, but the 38 does between them produced 25 fawns which all survived the return trip to St. Anthony in November.)

Bad variable weather—at first, rain, fog and soft snow, followed by frost with 5° below temperatures accompanied by gales — hampered preparations and the gathering of the animals, and it was not until nearly a fortnight of impatience that they could start on March 4th. Hugh took off ahead on snowshoes at 4 a.m. to buy provisions at Lock's Cove where the herd met him next day.

No one dreamed that it would take 58 days and 400 miles to get to Millertown, nor that their way would lead along the "roof" of the Northern Peninsula, eastward down to Sop's Arm, westward over the top, and down into Parson's Pond, and then south to destination via Bonne Bay and Deer Lake, arriving April 30th with bad weather still with them.

STARTING OFF

We see the expedition starting off with the fifty reindeer (four of them driving-stags, six of them white oxen geldings, and forty pregnant does); four Lap reindeer herd dogs: a team of six local dogs and at least one slide (Hugh bought another later at Englee); and at least one Pulka Lap slide in which the two Lap women rode (they rode all the way to Deer Lake either in a Pulka or later in the Newfoundland Komatiks.)

It is certain there was at least one of these Pulkas, probably four, because the A.N.D. Co. had paid for four, but, fifty-five years afterwards today, no one knows what happened to them. Were they abandoned when it was found they were useless in deep snow, or were they trailed along, lightly laden or empty? If Hugh thought they were of any value, since they were entrusted to him, we can be certain they landed in Millertown!

There was a camping outfit, possibly two, for the eight humans, food for the ten dogs, some dried moss probably "packed" by stags on their backs or on the oxen not engaged in hauling, and food for the humans (not much, because they figured on picking up provisions from the sea-coast settlements as they went along.) Actually all they got was when Hugh took a side trip out to Englee across the ice and bought what he could carry on his own slide and another he bought there.

As they started out they soon found the reindeer to be great roamers at night. (Grenfell, you will remember, said that at St. Anthony it was common for them to range for ten to even forty miles during the night). So throughout the whole journey it was necessary in all weather to keep four-hour watches in turn over the herd. At the start for a whole week the reindeer tried singly and jointly to return to the main herd at St. Anthony.

Then it was found soon that the Laps would go snow blind when there was any glare at all, and this persisted throughout the two months whenever there was any brightness (which proved to be very seldom, but on sunny days when the party could make at least their usual minimum of thirteen miles, it proved awkward).

NO ONE HAD KNOWN

As the expedition came to Hare Bay, and out on the ice, consternation struck. **It is absolutely impossible to drive reindeer over smooth ice.** They fall, and break their legs. In Lapland they don't encounter these conditions, and nobody had ever told anyone about this fact. What was there to do? First they walked them forty miles round on the banks and beaches of Hare Bay. Then they found they were faced with the problems both of cliffs and slob ice. There was no other way out other than to climb to the high plateau and make their way down the top of the Northern Peninsula.

It would mean facing exposure, hard going, and food shortage for all; but there was no alternative if the reindeer were to be delivered. As it turned out, there was no luck at all. Blizzards were almost continuous, the way was rugged and the snow deep. They were immobilized by bad weather at times for days on end. Lack of food along the way proved the hardest test for the humans, for the dogs and the precious reindeer.

On the way, on Friday, March 13, (Note this if you are superstitious), their best driving-stag was badly bitten in the foreleg by one of the local dogs. This injured reindeer finally "made" it, travelling in state from Deer Lake to Millertown by train, after previously having been carried in a special trip lashed on a dogsled from Bonne Bay, and previously down Parson's Pond mountains. The poor animal had had a very hard time of it during the ensuing weeks. On April 1 the leg was so badly swollen and infected that Aslie Sombie lanced it.

CARIBOU HERDS

On March 18 to their surprise they encountered caribou. The two herds would track each other for some time. Moreover the two mixed together, and when they were ready to move off next day they found two caribou had joined a group of

eleven of the reindeer. On the high ground they encountered caribou all the way. In fact only when they descended to the Cat Arm and Sop's Arm head-waters, trying to get provisions, did they lose them (just at the time they would have welcomed them as very necessary food).

Later, in the hills on the way to Parson's Pond, one of the young reindeer does became apparently smitten with a caribou stag and took up with the caribou herd permanently, never returning to the reindeer. This does not of course rule out that she may in subsequent years have rejoined the St. Anthony reindeer on occasions when the two herds mingled.

The diary takes us down the "roof" of the Northern Peninsula with tribulations increasing with each mile. On good days they always did thirteen miles and better, on others they managed only four, and on many they could not move at all. The hauling reindeer were doing magnificent work. Mitchell's erysipelas gave him trouble all this time. He had a very painful face.

NO FOOD

On the twenty-sixth day they reached the end of their tether as far as food was concerned. They camped down at Sop's Arm head-waters, to which they had descended, and sent off Greening and Mitchell with the dogs to see what food could be had at Sop's Arm settlement. They had then been twelve days without food.

For the plight of the party at the camp, look at the descriptive diary entries of March 28 to April 6.

SOP'S ARM EXPEDITION

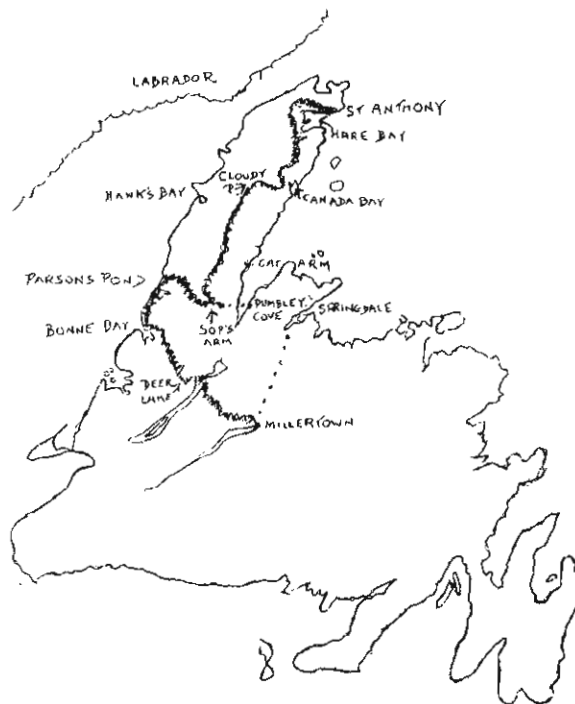
Greening and Mitchell left in a blizzard with one meager meal, no shelter or extra clothes or utensils, just packs because they were travelling light. They were on snowshoes and had six dogs and a slide. It was thought however that Sop's Arm was only about ten miles away and there they would find sufficient provisions and other assistance. It took them three days of desperate weather, and four of their dogs died of exhaustion. The distance turned out to be thirty miles and there was found to be nobody at Sop's Arm but a few livyer trappers, who had little enough food for themselves. Greening and Mitchell were completely exhausted by this time.

—To be Concluded Next Issue—

Hugh Cole's Reindeer Trek Down the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland

(Synopsis of the preceding chapters: Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, and Sir Mayson Beeton — of the AND Company — in 1907 decided to bring 300 reindeer to Newfoundland. Fifty of these were to be taken to Millertown and 250 to St. Anthony. Because of delays, the whole herd was delivered at St. Anthony, where they were put overboard in slob ice to swim ashore, on January 20, 1908. Hugh Cole, Tom Greening and an Indian named Mattie Mitchell undertook to go to St. Anthony by foot and guide the 50 animals for the Millertown herd, together with the Lapp-land family which was to tend them, from St. Anthony down the Great Northern Peninsula. In the previous issue, it was recorded how the group had fared up to the time that they were approaching Parson's Pond. Excerpts from the diary of Hugh Cole will appear in a subsequent issue).

ARTHUR JOHNSON



The nearest supply of food anywhere was across White Bay at Pumbley Cove—a straight line distance of ten miles. But now White Bay was full of moving slob ice. Nevertheless ten of the Sop's Arm men volunteered to risk it. A risk it proved to be, because the wind changed, drove the slob in solidly and jammed their boat's progress. By dragging the boat and walking several miles on both sides of the Bay, the men succeeded in going and coming, taking 52 hours to do the twenty straight line miles.

Mitchell started back, with the few bits of food he could gather, right away, knowing the state of affairs back at the camp. Unfortunately the Micmac and his two men from Sop's Arm missed the trail in the storm which was still going strong for two further days and went a dozen miles out of the way. They did not arrive till after Greening and his five men bearing the Pumbley Cove provisions had got to the

camp. With them came back the two surviving dogs which were highly valued, "Black" and "Kruger".

MAKE FOR PARSON'S POND

Because of the prospective exposure, unfavorable travelling conditions, and lack of food-stocks along the way, it was determined to abandon the White Bay, Hampden, Kitty's Brook route altogether. Instead they decided to return westward to hills and Long Range Mountains and cross over the roof of the Northern Peninsula and down to Parson's Pond on the West Coast. After that westward bit, rugged, rough and hazardous as it might be, the journey would encounter weather which should generally be better. The "going" would be infinitely easier and there would be food for everyone, even if for the reindeer it had to be hay.

It was a good decision that turned out well, except for the expected hardship of getting across the hills and mountains. The spectacular

mountains of the West Coast generally rise to over 2,000 feet and drop precipitously to the coastal plain.

The mountains behind Parson's Pond (a lake about ten miles long by two miles wide) are no exception, being in the 2200-2400 foot class. By good luck, Greening, in his survey of the lay of the land, hit on what was afterwards found to be the one and only way down. They went down over the slopes pell-mell — over the tree-tops and all. (The bitten stag made the descent on a Komatic hauled in state, by the other reindeer). The expedition arrived safely in another snowstorm, and just in time, because it was again foodless. The Parson's Pond Oilwells section was empty, but Parson's Pond Settlement provided welcome nourishment for all.

SWAM ST. PAUL'S INLET

Again in spite of trepidation as to what might happen getting over or around St. Paul's Inlet, the reindeer

themselves decided that here was a most enjoyable bit of variety. Aided by their natural buoyance of reindeer-hair and the propulsion of their great wide hoofs, they took the St. Paul's Inlet Bight swim in April in their stride.

Since their February trip all this was now familiar ground to Hugh, Greening and Mitchell—even the days of bad weather—which they had been all through on their preliminary trip to St. Anthony. So, with a side glance at the Diary, let's look at the situation on April 24 at Deer Lake after they had all arrived there.

Hugh, in the meanwhile, seeing all was well, left the party at Green's Point and headed for a quick advance-trip to Millertown to get a corral built and make other preparations for the herd. He picked up Larry Mitchell (son of Mattie) at Norris Point, who later also went with the herd from Deer Lake to Millertown. (Hughie was in good enough shape to take part in a big dance at Bonne Bay from which he went without stop to Deer Lake. Incidentally Hugh wore out the young guide and left him behind halfway to Deer Lake. In spite of this Hugh just missed the Express going East.)

DEER LAKE

By the time of their arrival at Bonne Bay and Deer Lake, the men, reindeer, and dogs were pretty well played out. Hugh met them half way to Deer Lake. He put on the train Sundine, Aslie Sombie, his wife and daughter, and himself; five stags and some does; all the dogs but the smallest herd-dog (five dogs in all); all the odds and ends: the Komatic-sleds, maybe some pulkas, the camping outfit and the rest of the gear. It will be remembered that one of the does was to break a leg jumping out of the box car at Millertown and to have to be destroyed—the only reindeer casualty of the whole trek.

The balance of the animals and party went on to Millertown, following the Railway Line to Kitty's Brook and then on down Hinds Valley to Red Indian Lake and up Mary March River to the corral, called "Lapland" just below what is now the Trans-Canada bridge.

On this last leg were Greening, Mattie and Larry Mitchell, and Pere Sombie, with the smallest Lap herd dog, and two or three day's food. They finished the journey

without special incident on April 30 (58 days and about 400 miles after leaving St. Anthony).

Thanks to great devotion, the herd was without mortality. One doe had joined the caribou, one had broken her leg at Millertown after arrival, and the stag bitten on March 13 was completely to recover—a remarkable record in reindeer driving and herding.

ON SHOW

The aftermaths are also exceptionally interesting. First is that the A.N.D. Co. reindeer were never worked but merely kept on exhibition, and they were visited by everyone from miles around, including people from Grand Falls and even St. John's, including Governor MacGregor and party who made a trip for the sole purpose. The site was $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Millertown.

The does had twenty-five fawns in May which added to the interest. The animals were highly intelligent and very friendly, and in the later months roamed almost at large.

A.N.D. CO. ERROR

However, there was discovered to be still another blunder—it was found there was no reindeer-food of any consequence in the whole area. Actually the reindeer were fed on hay and grass during all the time they were at Millertown. No survey for food had been made, because of the presumption that, if the herd could find its own food at St. Anthony, it would do so anywhere in Newfoundland.

Actually, suitable moss or lichens must really exist in the area, or the local caribou herds could not have lived there. One suspects that there was little support for the idea of reindeer-herding by the woodsmen and that even in the upper echelons of the A.N.D. Co. the initial enthusiasm and novelty wore thin. It was felt that this Santa Claus business had gone far enough. No attempt ever was made to use the reindeer. It was another case of a good thing gone wrong for want of a fair trial. Be that as it may, the reindeer were offered back to Grenfell as a gift. Since the 50 animals had now become 73, this was an excellent offer which was promptly accepted.

BACK TO GRENFELL

So, late in the year, after the breeding season, the herd was put on the move again—this time to South West Brook, Halls Bay, near Springdale. Hugh went in charge

again. In addition a number of A.N.D. Company men went along, such as the noted L. R. Cooper. The reindeer and all the equipment belonging to them went leisurely to South Brook where they were loaded on local schooners for delivery to St. Anthony. True to their roaming practice and tradition, however, three of the reindeer wandered off from the herd and missed the boat. They were recovered, and they finished the journey in state by the next coastal boat out of Springdale, the "Clyde". Grenfell remarked that the reindeer were far from in prime condition after having been fed mostly on hay all summer.

The Lap herder family, the Sombies, may have gone briefly to Lewisporte (definitely not to St. Anthony). The next record we have of them is their creating quite a sensation in St. John's for a week as they arrived by the train to catch the R.M.S. "Siberian" December 18, 1908, en route to Liverpool and Lapland. As we can imagine: "They attracted much attention from the small boys and girls owing to their peculiar dress and high peaked caps. A large crowd assembled and followed them from the station."

THE ST. ANTHONY HERD

The herd rose in numbers in the first year, 1908, from the original 300 to 481. In 1912 there were 1200, and in 1913 fifteen hundred. Then the widespread poaching of the reindeer stepped up and was engaged in, not only by the people of St. Anthony, but by most of the settlements in the north of the Northern Peninsula, and including fishermen going and coming from the Labrador fishery.

These were rough and ready times fifty years ago, and the breed of empire frontiersmen traditionally lived by killing everything that moved in the water, on the land, and in the air. To them, reindeer fell into that category.

Suppose we end by quoting Horace W. McNeill, Assistant Superintendent of the St. Anthony Mission of the International Grenfell Association. His father is Ed McNeill, who was head reindeer herder, and his uncle is Will McNeill who took the fifty reindeer to Fort Smith, N.W.T. in 1912. Both gentlemen are hale and hearty. Ed at St. Anthony and Bill retired at Fort Smith.

"I obtained full details from my father, and it makes very interesting reading. In fact the complete story of this notable experiment has never been told, and in retrospect one can

see that here was a far-sighted and far-reaching project which unhappily did not materialize due mainly to lack of rigid control.

What a great pity there was no vision and foresight in those days to match Grenfell's. It would be so different today.

Everything had pointed to a successful outcome—the terrain was suitable and there were large adequate areas of reindeer moss, the climate was similar to their native Lapland (except perhaps damper), and there were competent Lap herders.

But antagonism and apathy on the part of the Government, coupled with complete lack of law enforcement, and the laissez-faire attitude of the people doomed this great venture from the very beginning.

Local inhabitants killed off the

animals wholesale without regard for survival of the herd, and so this sorry episode came to an end.

Indeed political propaganda favored the people (the voters), and the situation was twisted to make it appear that Grenfell was depriving people from killing Newfoundland caribou.

Proper care and concern might have saved the animals here for posterity, instead of wanton destruction and waste. And so this whole practical scheme, which would have meant so much to the economy, came to grief at the shameful insistence of both people and government. A venture that could and should have succeeded was defeated by ignorance and suspicion."

It is unfortunate that such an interesting piece of Newfoundland history as the Reindeer Trek and Story

should be so little known and appreciated. It is an example of the many which have been glossed over and in some cases disappeared as the human memory of them passed with the generation.

Out of such outstanding accomplishments as those of Hugh Cole and his little band is the history of Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders written. A personal effort should be made by all of us to see these stories are perpetuated and recorded in safe fashion so that they will not be forgotten by present and future generations of Newfoundlanders. ★

For a number of years the Story of the Reindeer in Newfoundland has been of great interest. Thanks to all who have helped. If you have or know of further details or corrections, will you drop a note or telephone.

—ARTHUR JOHNSON★

The New Newfoundland Quarterly

IS THE IDEAL NEWFOUNDLAND GIFT.

How easy to choose appropriate gifts for many of your friends.

We'll send suitable cards announcing your gift.

TO: THE NEWFOUNDLAND QUARTERLY

P. O. Box 5874

St. John's, Nfld.

Please send gift subscriptions and cards signed

to the following:

Send **bill** to

NAME

ADDRESS

RATES: Canada—\$2.00 per year

Foreign—\$2.50 per year

PART 4

HUGH COLE'S

DIARY

THIS "DIARY" IS EXTRACTS FROM THE ORIGINAL NOTE BOOKS

(called Thomas Greening p.3) and (W."G". to Brian Potts) - unimportant.

Saturday
Jan 25, 1908 With W. J. Greening I left Millertown for Deer Lake by train, taking five dogs, one sleigh, camping outfit and a week's supply of grub. Arrived at Deer Lake 9:30 p.m.

Monday. 27: 3 ft. of snow. Raining at 3:30 p.m. Hitched up dogs, and started for Bonne Bay. Travelling very bad, caused chiefly by snow adhering to sleigh, and rain. We made our bed of boughs, and counted the stars. Distance covered. 4 miles.

Tuesday. 28: Rained incessantly until mid-day. Impossible to travel.

Wednesday 29: Weather cold and dry. Travelled 20 miles.

Thursday 30: Reached Bonne Bay at 3 p.m. The whole trail from Deer Lake in a very treacherous condition, our sleigh badly damaged. Here we took boat and crossed over to Norris Point, where, at 5:30, we met Mattie Mitchell, who was to accompany us to St. Anthony.

Friday 31st
to Very stormy.

Sunday Feb 2:

Monday Feb 3: Left Norris Point. Reached Lobster Cove at night. Mitchell complained of pain in the face.

Tuesday Feb 4: Arrived at Gull Marsh. Here we stayed two days, owing to Mitchell being down with erysipelas.

Friday Feb 7: Parson's Pond. Good travelling all day. Alas! Mitchell has given out again, delayed here three days.

Tuesday Feb 11: Mitchell much better. Started out again, Fine morning and good road. We crossed Parson's Pond river by boat, and reached Portland Creek Pond at 5 o'clock, where, for the first time on the journey, we put up our camp. Bought a new dog.

Wednesday Feb 12: Arrived at River Ponds about 7 p.m. Covered 26 miles today.

Thursday 13: Trapper's Cove. Made only 6 miles owing to Greening having a slight touch of "La Grippe".

Friday 14: Made the edge of hills in Hawks Bay; then William Uland acted as guide through a trail, from which we crossed over to Canada Bay.

- Saturday 15: By 3 p.m. we had crossed the hills, and barely reached the woods, when a terrific snow storm began. Camped at Cloudy Brook.
- Sunday Feb 16: Rained all day. Fine night, little frost.
- Monday 17: Hard travelling, there being only a thin crust on the snow. Made about 24 miles down the brook.
- Tuesday 18: Arrived at Dr. Grenfell's saw-mill at 5:30.
- Wednesday 19: Crossed over trail to Hare Bay.
- Thursday 20: Good travelling across Hare Bay. Ice in favourable condition. Reached Lock's Cove by lunch time. At 3:30 we arrived at Island Bight in a snow storm. We took shelter for the night in an old deserted house.
- Friday 21: Arrived at St. Anthony. Found the Reindeer in poor condition. I am told that, owing to the glitter on the moss, they have scarcely eaten at all since I left here.
- From Sat 22: Making arrangements for trip back.
to 25:
- Wednesday 26: Ready to separate deer, but, owing to slight misunderstanding between Mr. Lindsay and Dr. Grenfell, we were unable to do so.
- Thur & Fri : Rain and thick fog.
- Saturday
February 29: Cleared up, but snow too soft to travel.
- March 1st : Heavy frost, blowing a gale. Temperature 5 below zero.
- Mon March 2: Still below zero, blowing very hard. Gathered all the deer around camp by 7:30 a.m., but, owing to the high wind, found it impossible to separate them.
- Tuesday 3: Deer separated, ready to start. The following are my assistants, Laps-Aslie Sorbie & wife, and Pere and Maretta, their son and daughter, Morris Sundine, my interpreter, whom I had left at St. Anthony with Dr. Grenfell, Matthew Mitchell, as guide, and Thomas (W.G.) (W.J.) Greening. I left the camp at 4 o'clock, and walked to Lock's Cove where I bought a good supply of provisions.
- Wednesday 4: Blowing very hard. At mid-day met herd and party at the foot of Lock's Cove.

- Thurs 5,6 & 7: The ice on Hare Bay was like a sheet of glass. To attempt to travel on it was difficult and dangerous. I therefore decided to travel round the bay, which made our journey 40 miles longer. On the night of the 7th we camped on the trail near "ain Brook Pond. Pere Sombie is snow blind.
- Sunday Mar 8: Snowing heavily all day. Caught a few trout and one rabbit. The deer have to be watched very closely, as they want to return to St. Anthony. We take four hours shift during the night.
- Monday Mar 9: Travelled 14 miles today. Met Drs Little & Stewart, each with a team of dogs and sleigh, on their way back to St. Anthony from Englee.
- Tuesday Mar 10: Reached the foot of Canada Bay. 14 miles. Heavy snow storm - high winds - below zero today. We harnessed the white oxen for the first time, and began to break them in. I left the party to buy food at Englee.
- Wednesday 11: I arrived in camp at 10 a.m. having hired a team of dogs to bring the supplies. Wind still too high to permit us crossing the hills. Bought a sleigh.
- Thursday 12: Wind dropped a little. Crossed over the hills; camped at the head of Cloudy Brook at night.
- Friday 13: 12 miles. Found river broken up and ice rafted. Had to cut out a trail along by the river. Very bad going. Unfortunately our best stag was badly bitten by one of the dogs today.
- Saturday 14: Snowing and blowing, too bad to travel.
- Sunday 15: Very foggy till 3 o'clock.
- Monday 16: At 6 a.m. we started out to look for the deer. Very foggy. Walked around deer twice. Had a row with Aslie Sombie, who wanted to lay up for a week. Made edge of the woods; our driving stag crippled. We made good use of the white oxen today, for the first time.
- Tuesday 17: High winds - 7 below zero - weather too bad to permit our crossing the hills.

- Wednesday 18: Wind subsided at 12, last night. A fine morning. Breakfasted at 4:30 a.m. At 5:30 a.m. started out with Sundine to look for deer. Returned to camp at 8. Not a sign of them to be seen. Greening, Mitchell and Pere left camp for the same purpose. Returned with 10 of them, which they found near a brook 5 miles from camp. By 2 o'clock all the deer had been found or had returned: we then began to cross the hills. At 8 p.m. we first sighted the woods. By 9:30 we had fixed our camp and cooked supper. Enjoyed our pipes till 12:30 then turned in, temperature 10 below zero. Greening found 2 Caribou with the 11 deer, this morning. The main herd had tracked a herd of Caribou.
- Thursday 19: 5 below zero. Fine clear day. Journeyed 10 miles.
- Friday Mar 20: 2 below zero - fine day. Made 13 miles. Snow about two feet deep. We chopped down spruce trees to feed the deer with "Malldown". This often had to be done.
- Saturday 21: All the traps snow-blind. Wanted to lay up. Had to "bally-rag" them. Started off at 7:30 - travelling good. 13 miles.
- Sunday 22: Snowing and blowing hard all day. Fed deer with "Malldown".
- Monday 23: Snow and high winds till noon. Four deer lost, all hands out looking for them. Returned to camp at dark. Deer still at large.
- Tuesday 24: Lost deer came back during the night. Blowing a gale all day. Snowing all the morning. Raining all the afternoon. At 9 p.m. snowing again.
- Wednesday 25: Snowing until 10 a.m. When the weather cleared, all the deer around the camp. At noon, an awful blizzard came on and completely covered the Lap's camp. Too much snow for pulka. Beginning to get short of grub.
- Thursday 26: No tobacco. Fine morning. 7 below zero. Snowing hard until noon when the wind veered to the S.W. Travelled through woods most of the afternoon. Mild weather. Camped on the branch of Cat Arm Brook. Flour barrel low: low rations, one small bun each a ran at meal times.
- Friday 27: Terrible blizzard. Nothing to be seen till 1 o'clock when the weather cleared. We packed our traps and journeyed to another branch of Cat Arm Brook. Our biggest driving-stag gave out. Rested, then led the stag slowly.

Woods most of the way: Travelling very difficult. Later we climbed a hill, about 300 feet high in half a mile, through woods and heavy snow. The driving deer did very good work. No horse or dogs could possibly have hauled an empty sleigh over that hill. These deer in their poor condition hauled sleighs with comparative ease, even when heavily loaded.

Saturday Mar 28: Snowing all day. Crippled stag gave out again. After lunch we led him slowly for 2 miles; then left him and camped about a mile ahead - used the last of our flour. Killed a hare. Camped on a Branch of Sop's Arm Brook. Mitchell's face troubled him again.

Sunday March 29: Fine day. Mitchell and Greening started for Sop's Arm for grub. Could not find crippled stag.

Monday 30: Snow and blowing hard all day. Boys have not turned up yet. Enough rice for 2 or 3 meals only. Stag not found yet, too rough to trace him.

Tuesday 31: Found stag this morning. The leg still badly swollen - result of dog's bite. Boys not come home yet. Our total grub consists of about 8 lbs. of meat and half a pound of tea. No flour or biscuits.

April 1st: Weather mild 35 above zero. High winds from the south. Aslie Sornie lanced the wound in stag's fore-leg. Cut down some trees to feed the deer. No sign of the boys yet. Beginning to get a little anxious about them, as they left here with enough grub for one meal only.

April 2nd: 5 a.m. Fine morning: below zero. At 10 a.m. wind high and snowing. I trust the boys are o.k.

April 3rd: Snowing all night. Blowing and snowing hard all day. Low diet, one meal a day - tea twice boiled, leaves dried and then smoked in our pipes. No sign of the boys. At 7 p.m. blowing and snowing much harder.

April 4th: Rough weather continued all night. Thought the tent would have been blown down. By 8 a.m. tent nearly filled with snow. Snow coming through stove-piping and door. Stove blown down. Marked trail from camp to brook in case the boys come that way. The weather too bad to face the brook. The brook is covered with huge snow drifts, but the boys will have a "trade-wind" if they come back today. Another day gone and they have not arrived. Half a pound of meat left - enough for tomorrow.

April 5th: Still blowing, but not quite so hard. Snowing a little. Glass going up; temperature 22 above. Thick mist on the hills, no sign of the boys. Only a small piece of meat left - about 3 inches by $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch. Told Sundine meat before sleep was not good for him. He looked so sad that I had to give way, and halve the beef, which I then cut into 13 small pieces. The tea was weak - and so were we. Gave instructions to Laps to move the camp on Monday towards Sop's Arm the direction in which the boys left. Will have to kill one of the deer tomorrow unless the boys arrive.

April 6th. Fine morning. Up early and cooked our little breakfast. Deer all collected by 6:30. Just about to pack up, when we heard a gunfire, on the hill about two miles away. We dropped our traps, and ran out of the tent. In the distance we could see Greening and five other men, with packs on their backs, coming toward the camp. Our two faithful dogs, "Black" and Kruger" were with them. Oh, what joy. After a great welcome Greening said, "Where is Mitchell". Of course I looked at him with surprise, then he told me that Mitchell had left a day ahead of him with two men and provisions. Mitchell and the two men arrived in camp about two hours later. It appears that during the storm, they had crossed the brook at the steady, and wandered about 12 miles from the way.

(Mitchell and Greening left camp on the 29th ulto and did not reach Sop's Arm until the 31st. He reckoned the journey to be about 10 miles. It was not less than 30. These good fellows existed on one meal and were without shelter being compelled to leave the hills and take to the open brook. After travelling 15 miles, had to abandon the sleigh, as the dogs were too weak to haul. They were certainly "up against it", and it is difficult to imagine how they got through. They expected to find a mill at Sop's Arm; but, after searching until dark, they returned to a small salmon hut which they had passed earlier in the evening. When they had made a fire, they "went to a cupboard", found an old tin can, which contained a little grease etc. Greening says it was awfully sweet. Sop's Arm was sighted in the morning about 5 miles from the huts. The few liviers there had scarcely sufficient food to meet their own needs. The nearest store was situated on the other side of White Bay and the ice had broken up during the week previous. This meant another spoke out of their wheel, as they thought of us in camp, without food. The boys, who by now were played out, sought for volunteers to make the trip across the Bay, a distance of 10 miles.

There was a great deal of slob ice in the Bay, which made the trip a risky one; but the Sop's Arm men were ready in the morning. Whilst crossing, the wind changed, drove the slob in, and the boat became jammed. The going and coming took 52 hours; the men having to walk several miles on each side of the Bay. Mitchell had collected some provisions and started off for camp before the men returned from White Bay. Greening and the five men were able to follow next day. Reference to my diary as to the state of the weather, will account for their slow progress. On Saturday and part of Friday travelling was impossible. The men carried no blankets with them - only packs and axes. Each pack weighing from 45 - 50 lbs.)

- April 7th: Instead of continuing the journey direct south to Kitty's Brook, have decided to make for Parson's Pond, as the snow is very deep and only a limited supply of provisions. One deer missing this morning; hunted for it until 2 o'clock, then packed and crossed hills to the next woods. Travelling very bad, all our snowshoes broken up. Made only 6 miles today.
- April 8th: Snowed all day and high winds. Repaired snowshoes. Kept the deer near camp.
- April 9th: Crossed over to the next valley. Fine until 10 a.m., then more snow. Set up our camps at noon. Distance only 4 miles.
- April 10th: Snowing all day until 6 p.m. No meat so Mitchell and Greening went to look for caribou. Found a young stag with our herd. Later we enjoyed a feast.
- April 11th: Climbed high hills and made several unsuccessful attempts to get down, on the south side to Parson's Valley. At 1 p.m. it began to snow. Mitchell left us to seek a suitable camping ground. Returned within an hour. Successful in finding the only one (as we afterwards found out) low down in a deep gulch.
- April 12th: Camp snowed under. Scarcely able to get out. Snowing with high winds until 3 o'clock. With Mitchell and Greening, went out to find the best place to descend the hills, to the valley beneath.
- April 13th: Fine morning. Breakfast at 4:30. Numbered the deer and found 22 of them missing. At 11 a.m. still no sign of them. Short of grub so Mitchell and self left camp for the oil wells. Reached houses at dark. Stayed the night at one of the shacks. Settlement deserted. No food. Walking bad.

April 14th: Walked to Parson's Pond settlement for breakfast, about 5 miles, arrived about 6:30 and thoroughly enjoyed it, then started back to our camp with fresh supplies.

April 15th: Deer arrive Parson's Pond at 8 p.m. all o.k. The south side of the hill was almost perpendicular, and we experienced considerable difficulty in reaching the valley in safety. The lame stag was placed upon the sleigh and hauled for two miles.

April 16th: Snow and high winds all day.

April 17th: Reached St. Paul's. No trouble in swimming the deer across the bight, in fact they seemed to enjoy it.

April 18th: Arrived at Green's Point. Left camp at Martin's Point for Bonne Bay. Arrived there at 8 p.m.

April 19th: Left Bonne Bay at 2 and arrived at Deer Lake at 6:30 just in time to miss the Express going East.

Apr 20-24: Bonne Bay to Deer Lake. Stag gave out completely. Greening stayed behind with the stag. Mitchell returned next day with the dogs and sleigh on which they strapped him and hauled him to the Railway track at Deer Lake. I met the outfit again and took Aslie, his wife and Maritta, also four stags which were pretty well played out, the dogs and all the baggage on to Millertown by train, leaving Mitchell, Greening and Pere with one little dog and enough grub to last them two or three days, to follow across country to Millertown, coming by way of the Railway track to Kitty's Brook, thence taking the Hines Valley to Red Indian Lake.

April 30th: They arrived at our camp which is situated about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Millertown on Mary March River.

C O M M E N T

The Reindeer are very much like the Newfoundland caribou being about the same size. They are very tame and in deep trackless snow are superior to dogs or horses as draught animals. Our herd now consists of thirty-eight does and ten stags. The Laplanders are peculiar looking race, their skin being quite white, but of course much tanned by the wind and sun. Their dress consists chiefly of dressed skins of the deer and it isn't very easy to distinguish the men from the women, as they dress so much alike.

They wear no stockings or socks, their footwear consisting of a kind of lanigans moccasins stuffed with hay. The four engaged by us are members of the one family, the old man being sixty-five years of age, his wife sixty three and their daughter, who is deaf and dumb thirty-two and their son thirty.

Hugh H. Wilding Cole

May 1st, 1908.