

such a dense "smoke" of vapour
that ^{it} is impossible to know whether
there is open water or ice beyond

Bell says, that "in our Hudson's Strait
ice is moving about all winter," this is
not true as regards 100 or 200 miles
of the western end, as proved by the
records kept in 1884/5, and 1885/6 at the
stations on the shores - but even had
Bell's statement been true the Strait
would have been equally un navigable
as Davis's Strait is found to be the ice in
which moves all winter to the south.

It is reported in London that
the money to carry out the Hudson's Bay
railway has been promised, (I do not
know with what truth), and the great
contractor Outhwaite(?) of New York, is
spoken of as likely to take up the work

It is I think right that the lead
in this matter should be taken
by some Geologist of high position
who can speak with authority
on the large amount of excellent
and useful work done in this
important branch, whilst I can
speak with some little knowledge
of the surveys &c performed by
him - I did not attend the
British association this year; it
was not a large meeting but there
were some very interesting papers
and discussions - I do not think
my friend Dr. Bell was there
otherwise his name would have
appeared, nor have I heard of

him being in London -

Commodore Macklean R.N. swears
by him as a great authority on
all matters relating to Hudson's
Bay - and the Hudson's Strait, and
all things pertaining thereto -

Bell says - and Macklean echoes him
"that the temperature of the water of Hudson's
Bay in the summer is 53° Fahr; it is about
 15° lower - He says, that tomatoes ripen
well in the open air and that good crops
can be grown of barley at Moose, they
cannot - He says that Hudson's Bay is
navigable all winter! No one has ever
tried it. "That the ice is moveable, as is
the case in all large bodies of water
even 15° or more further north, there
cannot be a doubt, but a few yards
breadth of open water gives off in
calm weather, during winter, gives
off

I would indeed be glad, notwithstanding my opinion to the contrary, that the Hudson's Bay route might become a success, but I fear if carried out, it will be a heavy drag on Manitoba, instead of an advantage to her, and the North West Prairie Lands—

We are going out of town next week for some time, but to no great distance from London, as I have to run up to town now and then— We are all pretty well and join in most kind remembrances to you, Lady Dawson and your family circle— Believe me very sincerely

Yours

Wm Dawson F.R.S. &c. John Har
McGill College, Montreal—

My wife & her sister send love to Lady & Miss Dawson

JH

See
Sept 88