

## LENGTH OF VOYAGE

It was estimated that the voyage would last three years, and the "Arctic" was provisioned accordingly. In consequence of a breakdown in her machinery the vessel returned after one year, **WITH TWO-THIRDS OF HER SUPPLIES INTACT, ON BOARD.**

Attention is directed at this point to the importance of outfitting a vessel destined for a voyage to the North, with due regard to the ordinary risks of such an undertaking. By some unforeseen accident common in northern latitudes, the vessel might have been compelled to remain longer than ordinarily contemplated. This contingency was guarded against by provisioning for three years, although it was not intended that the voyage would last that long. This point is of importance in discussing the outfitting of the "Arctic" because criticism has been directed to the fact that she was provisioned for a longer period than was necessary. Had this precaution been neglected, criticism might, with propriety, have been directed at the Department, had lives been sacrificed.

## RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

The committee sat, heard witnesses, examined original documents, and went thoroughly into the whole matter, from the beginning to the end, and found the following state of things, testified to under oath.

## PRECAUTIONS TAKEN

The officials of the Marine and Fisheries Department surrounded the outfitting, purchasing and putting on board of the stores with every possible safe-guard.

Captain Bernier, in charge of the expedition, a navigator of great experience in northern waters, submitted to the department his estimates of what was necessary for 40 men for 3 years, and he based his calculations on three similar expeditions; one, that of Capt. Scott (English) to the Antarctic, Steamer Gauss (German) to the Antarctic, and the U. S. expedition in the Mary and Helen to Behring Sea.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries sent letters to well known merchants, asking them if they desired to supply articles in accordance with the requisitions of Captain Bernier, stating that **THE DEPARTMENT WOULD EXPECT THEM TO SUPPLY THESE GOODS AT THE GOING MARKET PRICES.** The evidence proved that with one trifling exception, **THE GOODS SUPPLIED WERE OF GOOD QUALITY, AND WERE CHARGED AND PAID FOR AT MARKET PRICES.**

The most serious charge was that the supplies purchased were never put on board the vessel. In this regard the Government took every possible precaution. Capt. Bernier himself says he personally checked the items as they arrived at the vessel, and supervised their transfer to the hold. In this duty he was assisted by a purser, Mr. Weeks, and a special clerk, Mr. Moffet. The invoices were checked and O.K'd by these men. In addition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier sent down Col. White of the R. N. W. M. Police, and Mr. J. E. B. Roudreau, to check the goods and inquire into their quality. Mr. Bourdeau was furnished with duplicate orders, and his instructions in writing from the Deputy Minister conclude with these words:—