

Northern Messenger

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By Dog Train in the North.

OUR KOMATIK AND ITS TEAM.



A DIFFICULT PIECE TO NEGOTIATE.

Nothing like a cool subject on a hot day, so what time is more appropriate than this for a look at the winter work on the Labrador field? The launch 'Northern Messenger,' whose summer work is so well known to our readers, has during the past two years had a winter substitute ready to carry on the work of the hospital with the smallest delay possible, and with the launch put into winter quarters the komatik, 'Winter Messenger,' has been put into commission as soon as there is sufficient snow on which to run it.

'There is no doubt that Job had a trying time of it, but if he had had to drive a team of dogs for very long, his record might have been different,' says Dr. Hare in a recent letter, and the Dr. certainly speaks from experience. The accompanying photographs which he sends to substantiate his words show certainly anything but an easy method of traveling, yet this is the only means of conveyance

that the north coast affords at present in winter. These photographs are of especial interest as they show the 'Winter Messenger' itself in operation, a sturdy well built sled, still in full fettle after the strain of two hard winters' work, over the northern coast lines and general routes of travel.

Some idea of what 'routes of travel' may mean in Labrador is gained from a glance at these photographs taken by Dr. Hare early in the work of the past winter, and, as they are studied, something suspiciously like admiration grows up for the staunch little sled that has accomplished a third season's work over such roadways, or lack of them, as Labrador affords.

The long box, lashed to the sled proper, bears on its side the name of the komatik 'Winter Messenger,' a name of good cheer along those northern ways, for it is the messenger of hope bearing the doctor's supplies

in cases of sickness, and of comfort also, bearing food and clothing wherever these may be needed in the long hard winter. For five months and a half the komatik will be in commission so that, for well on to half a year, the team of dogs will be earning by good hard work the long holiday that comes to them with the coming of summer. Not that the dogs are anxious to be off duty; they seem to heartily enjoy a good run and with plenty of food, good shelter, and a careful master, we may be sure that the particular team in which we are interested has no cause to regret the coming of the winter, and their long service.

Dr. Hare, as one of these photographs shows, has a difficult problem to tackle when necessity calls a halt, and the dogs get a chance to tangle their traces. The length of these is necessary when the team is on the run, but it constitutes a continual menace during stops.



UP AND OVER.



A LONG PULL.