

STEFFANSSON TELLS OF ARCTIC EXPEDITION

Brings Full Account of Captain Mikkelsen's Anglo-American Exploration Work—Life Among the Eskimos.

(From Monday's Daily.)

The first really authentic information of the Anglo-American exploration party that went north on the Duchess of Bedford a year ago last May, has been brought down by V. Steffansson, the ethnologist, who went down the Mackenzie river to meet the ship at Herschel Island. Mr. Steffansson arrived yesterday on the Princess Royal, coming over via Ladysmith and the E. & N., and is now at the Friar Hotel. Speaking of his trip to a Times reporter this morning he made the following statement:

"I started down the Athabasca river from Edmonton with a Hudson's Bay trading party to Athabasca lake, and from there down the Slave river and up that stream to Fort McPherson, the most northerly of the Hudson's Bay posts in the Mackenzie valley. This post is just on the border, between the Indians and the Eskimos, and trading is done with each.

"From Fort McPherson I went down the Mackenzie 250 miles farther and about 150 miles along the coast to Herschel Island, taking to the whalers there the first news of the San Francisco earthquake, the vessels having been imprisoned there for a whole year by the ice. We arrived on August 10th, the exact date set for meeting the Duchess of Bedford, and found Captain Amundsen of the Gjøa still there after making fruitless attempts to get out. There were also eleven whale ships waiting to get out.

"Herschel Island is the rendezvous where the whalers cache supplies to take them through in case they are wrecked. It is the most northern port of the Northwest Mounted Police, a picket of four being stationed there under Inspector Jervis, who served in the South African war and was formerly belonging to Dawson.

"About one week after my arrival, Captain Amundsen succeeded in getting out, and a few days later the whalers all went out to their fishing grounds, leaving no one there but two members of the mounted police, an English geographer, Mr. Harrison, and myself. There were about one hundred Eskimo on the island along the coast, existing on the fish which they catch and an occasional barren-ground caribou, a variety a little smaller than the woodland caribou of the Yukon, but two years no supplies had been brought in by the whalers, so that outside of the mounted police rations, which had been brought down the Mackenzie, and which were barely enough for themselves, there were no provisions. Mr. Harrison also had a small supply, but nothing like sufficient for himself. This was an entirely unusual state of affairs on the island, as ordinarily the whaling ships bring in yearly much more food and other supplies than they need, and the result is that they can be purchased as cheaply as they would in San Francisco.

"My reason for going down the Mackenzie had been a fear that the Duchess of Bedford might be blocked in the ice somewhere on the west coast, so that event I expected to be in a position to secure supplies at Herschel Island to start independently of the ship eastward along the coast to where the Eskimos live, as it was for the purpose of studying these people that I had come. They live chiefly on the coast between the Mackenzie river and Cape Barry, but here I found myself with nothing but a summer suit of clothes and a rifle without cartridges, and quite unable to buy any. Mr. Harrison kindly offered to share what he had, but as I could not accept of his offer, I waited until the end of August, when all hope of the Duchess of Bedford or whalers arriving was abandoned, when I started east along the coast in a whale boat belonging to an Eskimo.

"Until the latter part of February I lived in Eskimo houses between Single Point and Cape Brown. I had absolutely no white man's food, not even salt. My diet was fish and whale, one of which had been secured from a whaler, white whale or beluga, a kind of porpoise 30 feet long, an important article of food among the Eskimos, and polar bear, of which four had been obtained. The game was shot by the natives, who have some of the latest makes of rifles, among them the Lee-Enfield, and who use them with great skill.

"Our meals consisted of raw fish twice a day, ordinarily frozen, and cooked meat or fish once a day. At first I had all my food cooked, but soon found that the trouble of cooking was too great, and I got to like the raw fish even better than the boiled. The Eskimos know no word of English and were wholly uncivilized in the ordinary sense of the word, and also unchristianized. They were a very pleasant people to live with, always being in a good humor, even when starving. Their family life was perfect, they are never seen to quarrel with man and wife, I never saw a child punished yet; they were the best behaved lot of youngsters I have ever seen. A case of theft was quite unknown among the strictly uncivilized natives and the mounted police are ready to corroborate what I say.

"This statement does not, however, apply to the partially civilized Eskimos west of the Mackenzie, who have learned a number of bad habits from the white visitors, but even these are just as reliable as white men.

"Another curious thing I found was that their houses were not as filthy or bad smelling as has been sometimes reported. They are built of drift-wood and sod and always have a ventilating chimney from three to five inches in diameter which is always open. The

type used by Nansen and other Arctic explorers, they found too weak and otherwise ill-suited for the travel over such ice as they met in the Beaufort sea. A similar ice trip will be made next winter with better sleds which will be built from the timbers of the wrecked ship. They will journey approximately along the meridian, which forms the international boundary between Alaska and Canada about thirty miles west of Herschel Island. This trip will probably be made by Captain Mikkelsen, Mate Storkerson and another, while Mr. Leffingwell will devote his entire attention to geological work. The remainder of the crew, in charge of Dr. Howe, is being sent down this summer and will probably arrive in San Francisco aboard some whaling ship about next November.

"After the return of the ice party, Mr. Leffingwell left immediately for geologic work in the Rocky mountains south of Flaxman Island, and is spending the entire summer there. When boat navigation opened in July, Dr. Howe, myself, and some members of the crew made a journey in two boats westward along the coast to the mouth of the Colville river. While collecting data there, Mr. Storkerson unfortunately shot himself in the foot with a rifle. This accident made it necessary for him to go immediately to Flaxman Island for medical attendance. Captain Mikkelsen and Dr. Howe went back while I stayed in the Colville delta among the Eskimos to continue my ethnological work.

"It remained there until July 25th, when the first of the whaling fleet arrived. This was the ship Belvedere from New Bedford, Mass. I took passage on her to Herschel Island for the purpose of excavating some old ruins on the south end of the island. Captain Cottle arrived on the 28th of July, one day earlier than a whaler had ever been to the island. Captain Mikkelsen arrived by another ship a few days later, and on the same day Inspector Jervis of the mounted police arrived from Fort McPherson, bringing the news that a report had reached Fort McPherson to the effect that Captain Mikkelsen, Mr. Leffingwell, and Dr. Howe had gone off on an exploring expedition from the Duchess of Bedford and had been lost. They, according to the report sent out, had been last seen by an Eskimo afloat on a small cake of ice and were being driven north in a storm, and all hope of their recovery was given up. This report, it was believed, had been sent out by the mounted police going up the Mackenzie river, and due to arrive in Edmonton about the last of September. The news disturbed Captain Mikkelsen greatly, and as there was no one else to carry out dispatches, I volunteered to make the attempt, although I had intended to continue in the country for another winter among the Eskimos.

"Accordingly I left Herschel Island at twelve hours' notice, and went by boat to Fort McPherson. Accompanied by two Indians I crossed the mountains, making a one hundred mile portage to La Pierre House, an abandoned Hudson's Bay fort on the Bell river. The Indians helped me to build a raft and then they returned while I floated down the Bell river to Porcupine, and down the Porcupine to the Yukon, all alone, a distance of 800 miles in 27 days, a record trip. I travelled night and day, and it rained nearly all the time. On one occasion I woke up in the middle of the night to find myself in the midst of a rushing rapid and the water washing over me.

"At the junction of the Yukon I fortunately met the steamer Koyukuk, which took the most urgent of my dispatches down the Yukon to be cabled from Rampart to the London Daily Mail and the Royal Geographical Society. I then came down the regular route of travel, arriving here last night.

"Yes, I expect to return next spring on a whaler and hope to winter on Prince Albert land. A barrier of ice separates Herschel Island from the whaling grounds and the captains now leave Edmonton in November and arrive at Herschel Island early in May. When I returned from this trip the ice party had come back.

"The exploration party had gone north from the neighborhood of Midway Island and reached a north latitude of 72.20 approximately at the 149th meridian W. At that point the ice was so badly broken by lanes of open water that further progress was both difficult and dangerous. It not quite impossible. They then headed due east, but at the end of three days of westing observations showed them to be drifting westward faster than they could travel east. This was entirely unexpected as it had always been believed by geographers that the currents in this part of the Arctic sea flow from west to east. The prevailing winds were easterly, but the striking thing was that in spite of light easterly winds there was a strong westward drift, but with strong westerly wind seemed to merely check the prevailing drift without producing a marked easterly one. Ice jamming took place under the influence of westerly winds. "When the party found the conditions prevailing they saw that it was necessary to travel straight south if they were to make land before the drift carried them into the open ocean beyond Point Barrow. For some time while travelling straight south their actual course was some degree north of west but an opportune strong westerly wind blowing continuously for four days checked the drift long enough to enable them to reach land-fast ice near Cape Halkett. The danger was over so they travelled east along the coast, reaching Flaxman Island about May 15th. They had taken with them supplies for 60 days, but had seen so many seals that they wished they could have lived on them indefinitely without using their stock of provisions. Everywhere they found tracks of polar bear and two were sighted, of which they managed to secure one. No hardships were suffered but several times they were in danger from the violent motion of the ice across which they were travelling. Even with the thermometer varying from thirty to fifty below zero they met numerous lanes of open water, and although they had a boat, they frequently had to camp for a day or longer before they could safely cross. In the early part of the trip they waited for these lanes to freeze, but in April when the thermometer was seldom lower than twenty below zero they crossed in their boat.

"The sleds they had which were the

LOCAL NEWS

—Grand Chancellor K. of P. Hamner, of Grand Forks, will be in Victoria on Thursday, September 26th, on an official visit to the local lodges. All knights requested to be in attendance on that night.

—The contract for the addition of a new roof and a portion of the second story to the New Westminster asylum was let yesterday to architects of Vancouver. The estimated cost of the work is \$12,000.

—An opening social will be held at the new Y.W.C.A. rooms, 834 Government street, Tuesday evening next, when the rooms will be used for the first time. A very pleasant programme is being arranged and refreshments will be served. All workers and friends are invited to attend.

—A carload of machinery for the laundry establishment of the new E. & N. wharf has arrived over the E. & N. wharf. The machinery is the product of an American manufacturer, and embraces all the up-to-date contrivances for washing clothes.

—The funeral of the late James Brown, steward of the S. S. Amur, who was drowned at the outer wharf Friday afternoon, will take place on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the parlors of the C. C. Funeral Furnishing Company, 52 Government street.

—A nest of five well-grown mink was discovered by W. A. Kingscot, of Saanich, while walking along the beach near Gordon Head yesterday in an old tree stump. Mr. Kingscot's dog, led him to the nest, and upon discovering the mink, he drew them forth one by one and speedily despatched them with his stick.

—At a recent meeting of the Ladies' Aid of the Church of Our Lord it was decided to hold a birthday party, which will be given at the residence of Mrs. Gladstone next, at Mrs. Gladstone's residence, 82 Superior street. Tea and light refreshments will be provided and contributions for the work basket will be in order.

—The congregation of the Central Baptist church held a social evening in the Y.M.C.A. auditorium last night, when a large number enjoyed a good programme and light refreshment. Rev. Christopher Burnett, the pastor, opened the proceedings with an address. Vocal solos by Miss Brooke and Mr. Charles D. Gillingham, and the harp by Beckwith followed, after which Mrs. J. W. H. King, on behalf of the women in the congregation, read an address of welcome to Mrs. Burnett. The latter replied in felicitous terms, and the gathering then enjoyed light refreshments.

—The members of the First Presbyterian choir, numbering some thirty, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kinnaird at their home on Stanley avenue last evening. A splendid evening's amusement was enjoyed by all. Games, music, recitations, and the time passed very quickly. Refreshments were served and in the "wee sma' oors ayont the twal" the happy crowd dispersed to their homes, but not before singing Auld Lang Syne. During the evening songs were sung by Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. Wilson, Messrs. Robert Morrison, Allan Bremner, John Morrison, W. D. Kinnaird and a very enjoyable reading was given by D. A. Fraser.

—The Cowichan Agricultural Society's annual fair opened to-day at Dunstons and will continue to-morrow evening. Many people went up from Victoria to attend the opening.

—An enjoyable dance was held last night in the St. William Wallace hall by the companions of the Forest Lodge. The merriment was maintained all the time and the large number took part in the entertainment.

—A permit was granted to George Florence by the city building inspector for the erection of the purpose of a two-story frame dwelling at the corner of Green and Quadra street. The estimated cost is \$3,500.

—The districts of Sooke, Otter and Renfrew are withdrawn from the Institute district of Metchohn and constituted the Institute district of Sooke for the year ending March 31, according to a notice in the Provincial Gazette.

—A Chinaman was severely injured yesterday on Menzies street, the result of a runaway horse. The Chinaman was thrown from his horse when the horse started and the wheels passed over his arm bruising it very badly, but strange to say not breaking it. Dr. Robertson was summoned and bound up the wounded member.

—The tug Beaver left for Jordan river to-day towing a scow on which was a logging engine for the railway being put in by the Jordan River Lumber company at that place. The engine was made by the well known firm which manufactures the Climax locomotive for logging and similar narrow gauge railways. It is understood that the engine has already been ordered by the company and will be sent to Port Renfrew shortly.

—An Esperanto society has been formed in Victoria for the study of the new universal language. The organizing meeting was held last evening in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. when J. Lee Forster was elected president and Miss Forster, of Stanley avenue, secretary. Dr. Gorn, Esperanto consul for Los Angeles, will give a course of instruction, informally, on an improvised means for conveying the Tablets, from thirty to fifty words, or from Dr. Gorn, 44 Rae street.

(From Monday's Daily.)

—A Canadian patent has just been issued, through the agency of Rowland Brittain, patent attorney, of Vancouver, granted to N. McPherson, of Vancouver, on an improved means for attaching a handle to a log's cross cut saw, and the object of the invention is to facilitate the attachment and re-

STEAMER FOR THE SKEENA.

James Thomson, manager of the Hudson's Bay Company at Victoria, left for Hazelton on Friday. In course of conversation with a representative of the Vancouver News-Advertiser, Mr. Thomson stated that advice had just been received from the Skeena to the effect that the Hazelton, which had run on a bar when the recent accident occurred had had her damage temporarily adjusted, and was leaving for Eslington.

Thomson stated that the water in the Skeena was usually at the very lowest point at this season of the year; it is usual, however, for the autumn rains to set in about now, and this generally results in a material rise of water that enables steaming to be continued until the early part of October.

While the present season had been a disastrous one, and the recent wreck of the Hazelton, coming so soon after the loss of the Mount Royal, had demoralized matters somewhat, relief would be brought about again by the operation of the Hazelton, and, said Mr. Thomson, "instructive of the fact forwarded to give the first consideration to the carrying of all foodstuffs in the way of freight." An attempt will be made at once to save the upper works of the Northwest, and if it is successful, they will be taken to Eslington, where a new hull will be built for them. A wrecking crew left on the steamer Princess May to work on the Northwest. The company hope to secure a steamer next week to finish the remainder of the season on the Skeena.

BATTLE WITH INDIANS.

Mexican Troops Have an Encounter With Mayas.

Meridia Yucatan Province, Mexico, Sept. 23.—Word has just been received of a battle between the federal troops and a band of rebel Maya Indians, near Progreso, defeated the newly organized Salt Spring Island team on Monday night. The game was one in reality, an assault on the part of the soldiers, and a number of Indians were killed. The Mayas effected a fairly orderly retreat, and got clear away, taking the dead and wounded with them. At the military headquarters it was stated that stringent and adequate measures will be adopted to hold down any rebel movements.

WILL BUILD A HOME IN CITY

CHARLES COWEN TO RESIDE IN CITY

Seattle Real Estate Dealer, Charmed With Victoria, Decides to Live Here.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Chas. Cowen, a Seattle real estate operator, has purchased from Pemberton & Son a building site at Oak Bay for \$10,500. The lots are situated on Mount Baker avenue, and have an unobstructed view of the bay.

Mr. Cowen remarked that such a piece of ground in Seattle would sell for a hundred thousand dollars if a similar location were obtainable. The size of the ground is 32x72 feet, angular in shape and surrounded by three streets. It is Mr. Cowen's intention to build a beautiful bungalow where he can rest from the strenuous life of Seattle, where he has large interests.

James Young, formerly of New York, but now residing in Seattle, who with Mr. Cowen was stopping at the Oak Bay hotel, was also much impressed by the advantages of the neighborhood, and is looking for a choice home site on Oak Bay.

Both Mr. Cowen and Mr. Young expressed the opinion that, all things considered, there is not another place in the world quite as ideal as Oak Bay. Mr. Cowen has already given orders for the clearing of the property he purchased.

TOKIO EXHIBITION.

Japan Promises to Open the Eyes of the World in 1912.

Ottawa, Sept. 23.—Canada's commercial agent in Japan in a report to the department of trade and commerce states that Baron Kaneo, a member of the privy council and director of the world exhibition to be held in Tokyo in 1912, says: "The coming exhibition will give the best possible opportunity of showing the real power of Japan and her claim to enter the ranks of the first-class powers in name and reality."

CHEAP LABOR.

Nanaimo, Sept. 23.—A Japanese agent has been on Gabriola Island lately trying to place one hundred and fifty Japs, offering their services to farmers free for off work on the keep in order to acquaint the new Oriental arrivals with the country and its ways.

STEAMER LOST IN GREAT LAKES

CAPTAIN AND FIVE OF CREW DROWNED

Eleven Saved in the Small Boats After a Battle With Treacherous Surf.

Chicago, Sept. 23.—The steamer Alex. Mimick went ashore thirteen miles west of White Fish point in Lake Superior Saturday night. Captain Randall and five of the crew were drowned, eleven members of the crew being saved. She was bound north with coal. It is supposed her engines broke down and she drifted ashore during the storm.

A heavy northwest gale was at its height when the Mimick plowed her way out of the So River into White Fish Bay and Lake Superior looked too rough to be trusted. The shelter of White Fish point was accordingly taken advantage of until morning when the storm seemed to have spent its force.

Capt. Randall then pointed his vessel out into the big lake. All would have gone well had not the steering gear or some part of the machinery gone wrong. When a few miles away from St. Mary's river the steamer was taken over by treacherous waves and a deadly attack from the storm.

Driven overboard by the steamer going to pieces under their feet, the crew began to battle in small boats. The Mimick was the last to go. Capt. Randall and five men capsized in the surf and all were drowned. Telegrams state that the five men and the ship were lost in the surf and that Steward Parent was washed overboard. Until a week ago the Mimick was commanded by Capt. Frank Bertram, of Detroit, who at present is at home here on leave of absence. Capt. Randall, of the Aigonac, was transferred to the Mimick, which is also of the Gilchrist fleet, and this was his first trip.



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RUGBY GAME.

Have Three Teams This League to Be Formed.

Rugby Club held a J. B. A. last night, but matters discussed to open the season with a held at Oak Bay to-morrow at 10 o'clock. The year are of a highly attractive, and it is anticipated will be organized before far advanced.

The Victoria Rugby in evidence, and as announced in a few days some boys have decided to join in the field. It is certain that the Y.M.C.A. into line, and thus there clubs in Victoria and a games will be arranged, each other and with the surrounding districts.

Rugby Club has decided to begin on Tuesday evening and at this gathering of games for the season up and the plan of campaign the game will be fostered decided upon.

With the proposed Y.M.C.A. team, all those that institution who are to send them in their G. Findlay, the physical

BRTA SUICIDE.

Mr. Himsall at the Home His Brother.

Sept. 20.—A startling death occurred from morning at the home of his brother Preston. The man was a despondent due to his recent illness. This condition was Mr. Lynch refusing to return to town. The family was shocked of a shotgun. An investigation of the brother's death at the house.

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MURPHY'S KIDNEY PILLS