

OTTAWA, April 5, 1910.

G. J. DESBARATS, Esq.,

Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries,

Ottawa.

SIR.—I have the honour to submit my report of the voyage of the Dominion Government steamer *Arctic*, to the northern waters of this continent, for the purpose of patrolling the waters contiguous to that part of the Dominion of Canada already annexed, and for the further purpose of annexing territory of British possessions as far west as longitude 141 degrees.

I have great pleasure in mentioning that with the valuable assistance of the officers, staff and crew of the *Arctic*, I was able to successfully patrol and cruise in the following waters, viz.: Davies strait, Baffin bay, Melville bay, Smith sound, Lancaster sound, Barrow strait, Melville sound, McClure strait; and on returning to winter in Winter harbour, Melville island. During our stay at Winter harbour two parties were twice sent to Banks island and Victoria island to annex those islands and search for cairns erected by McClure, in which he left records. Leaving Winter harbour on August 12, 1909, we explored and sounded Byam Martin channel and Austin channel as far as Hotspur point, where we left records. We then sailed down Austin channel into Barrow strait, along Lancaster sound, and into Navy Board inlet and into Ponds inlet. From Ponds inlet, we patrolled the east coast of Baffin land with a view of meeting whaling vessels, two of which we met, and issued to them licenses. From there, we visited Cumberland gulf, issued four licenses to stations, and from that point sailed to Cape Haven in search of the wrecked crew of the *Snowdrop*. From Cape Haven we sailed to Port Burwell and then into Hudson strait as far as Ashe inlet, which we entered and constructed beacons;