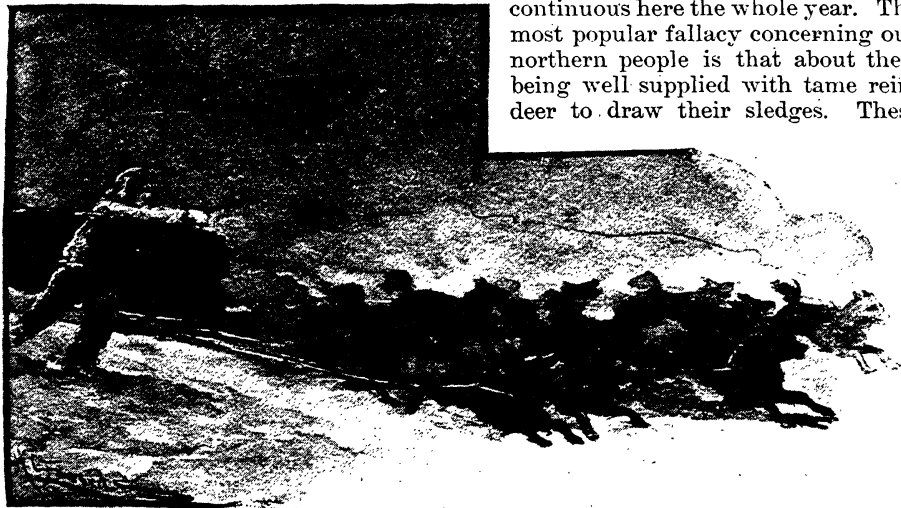


SEAL AND WALRUS HUNTERS.

structure, while the permanent ones often have two, three, or four snow-houses grouped around and emptying into a single one, which might be called the hall. The hall proper, however, of every snow-house is usually a low passage-way of five to twenty feet in length, through which a person has to crawl on his hands and knees, and which is chiefly useful in excluding the intensely cold winds outside, and as a refuge for the numerous dogs whenever particularly stormy weather prevails.

Their almost universal method of transportation is by dogs and sledges, for the good and sufficient reason that the average winter season in Eskimo land, when sledges are used, far exceeds the summer time, when the streams and channels are open, and skin canoes and

boats are employed. In fact, when I was on King William's Land, in 1879, we did not give up sledging on the land until June 22d, and after that used the shore ice of the sea until July 24th, when it broke up. In the early part of September, the first snows again allowed us to resume sledging: McClintock reported that the sea-ice near this point broke up with him as late as August 10th, and the natives told me that occasionally it happened that the ice did not break up at all, so that sledging could have been continuous here the whole year. The most popular fallacy concerning our northern people is that about their being well supplied with tame reindeer to draw their sledges. These



ESKIMO SLEDGE AND TEAM.