

a paper of instructions for his guidance in almost every conceivable emergency, and in accordance with this, Sverdrup, always loyal to his leader, occupied himself and his companions during the greater part of the summer in making preparations for leaving the *Fram* should it be necessary to take to the ice. With this end in view, kayaks, sledges, and ski were prepared, and everything which forethought could suggest was done to ensure the safety, not only of the members of the party themselves, but also that of the records, photographs, and scientific memoranda.

A good deal of time was also spent in liberating the *Fram* from the ice, and the huge hummock which had been formed by the ice-pressure of January was removed. Just as this was accomplished the ice around the ship broke up, and though she was still held fast, open water came within a few feet of her. As time went on this water lane became wider and wider, and the ice by degrees broke away from the *Fram*, leaving her so near the water that when a judiciously-placed mine was exploded near her stern it set her free, and for the first time in nearly two years she was afloat in blue water. She still held the position of a prisoner on parole, for the sphere in which she was at liberty to move was extremely circumscribed; but with some trouble she was warped into a safe dock, where in the course of a few days she was again frozen in.

Everything by this time was ready for a start if