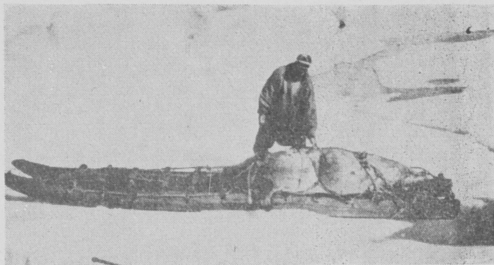


had discovered that he would need some parts for the main engine, and these could only be obtained through the winter mail. Accordingly, Sergeant Larsen thought it advisable to go either to Banks Island or Walker Bay and winter in.

On September 20, the *St Roch* anchored off Holman Island in a fine deep harbour. Fog held the vessel at anchor for two days, then she headed for De Salis Bay, Banks Island—an enormous harbour well protected from east winds by a long sandspit. The spot seemed ideal for winter quarters. But Skipper Larsen's experienced eye caught sight of something that made him decide against the location: high mounds of rock and pushed-up gravel, indicated heavy ice pressure in the spring; in such a large harbour, the *St Roch* would be exposed to heavy ice-floes and in addition the nearest fresh water was five or six miles away. A quick decision had to be made for it was the time of year when the weather in the Arctic is very uncertain—there was no time to prospect around. So the schooner crossed over to Walker Bay, on the west coast of Victoria Island, arriving on September 25. A site was chosen in the south-eastern part of the bay, about three hundred yards from shore in ten fathoms of water.

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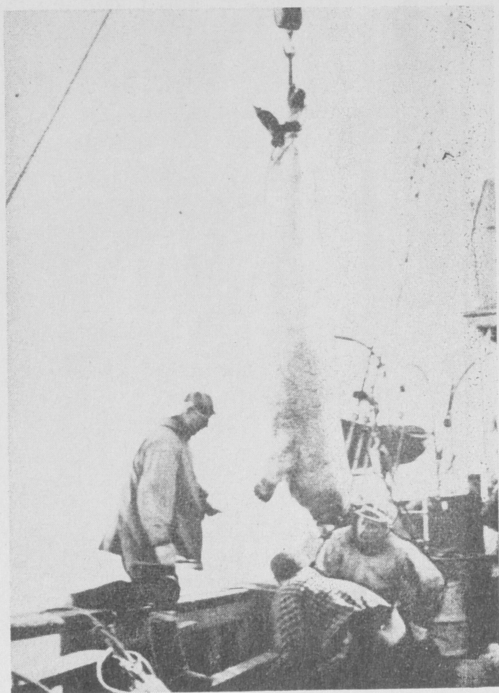
UNLOADING began at once. All fuel oil, coal and boats were stowed on the beach; fish nets were set, but the season was too far advanced—the fish run was over. October was windy and this kept the bay from freezing over. It wasn't until October 30 that the *St Roch* was in position for her winter clothes—a wooden framework from fore to aft covered with canvas. Ice conditions between Point Barrow and Herschel Island had been extremely bad, and the weather was, in general, the worst ever experienced by the *St Roch*. Severe bumps and squeezes caused a small opening through which some water trickled into the forepeak. When



A member of the crew lashes to a sled a walrus he has just caught.

the vessel broke clear of the ice pressure this aperture closed up again, and the leakage ceased.

The cold came, and the blizzards and gales. The *St Roch* rested, 'cemented' in the ice. But not so her crew. Dog patrols were carried out to near-by Banks and Holman Islands. Scattered Eskimo tribes were visited, their health checked and investigations were conducted to see that the N.W.T. Game Act was being observed. Doing the ship's chores and going on hunting trips re-



Giant seal, weighing a thousand pounds, is brought aboard.