

CANADIAN EXPEDITION STARTS FOR THE HOME OF THE ESKIMO

Continued from page nine.

"The man in charge of this very important work is James Murray of Glasgow, for many years a co-worker with Sir James Murray, who is one of the two most authoritative oceanographers of the world, the other being the Prince of Monaco. Murray, by the way, was biologist with Shackleton on his Antarctic expedition, and besides writing reports of his own has edited all the scientific publications of the Shackleton expedition. Since returning from the Shackleton expedition Murray has been his last in the boundary survey of Columbia, South America.

"It may well right here to call attention to the importance of having Murray with us in the north. It is exceedingly important for the same pair of eyes to see Arctic phenomena as have seen Antarctic phenomena, so as to compare them fairly and with scientific accuracy. This at once eliminates the personal equation.

"Our specialist in study of fishes is Fritz Johansen, who was a member of the Mylius Erichsen expedition which completed the mapping of Greenland. For the last two years Johansen has been doing scientific work in the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

"The most difficult men of science to find perhaps are anthropologists of the first rank, because there are so few of them in the world. Our expedition will carry two—a Frenchman named Dr. Henri Beauchamp, who is a specialist in American archaeology, although he has never been to this country, and who received a prize recently from a French academy of science for a work he has written on American archaeology. Beauchamp has a book knowledge of Eskimos, although he cannot speak the language, just as certain students have book knowledge of Sanskrit and Chaldee.

"The other anthropologist is Dr. D. James, an Englishman and an Oxford man. He is the only member of the expedition I have not seen personally. He was in New Zealand when I engaged him by cable on recommendation of several who knew him personally, as scientific men generally know him by reputation.

"Our work in terrestrial magnetism will be in charge of a W. T. McKinlay, a graduate of the University of Glasgow, a physicist by profession, who recently has been undergoing special training in the Dominion Meteorological Observatory at Toronto.

"The surgeon of our expedition is A. Forbes Mackay, M. D., of Edinburgh, for some years surgeon in the British navy and later surgeon of Shackleton's expedition. Of recent years he has made some good journeys of his own, exploring a part of Central Asia. Dr. Mackay is now in Victoria superintending the taking on of stores aboard the Karluk.

Moving Picture Films.

"One of the very important things we will attempt is to make cinematograph films which will show the life of natives we will come across before their habits are changed by contact with whites. In future years through these moving pictures the public will see Eskimos and other unfamiliar people building their snow houses, going through their dances, hunting caribou, fishing, attending funerals, living day by day in their homes and performing their varied ceremonies.

"I don't know whether these films will have much commercial value, and I don't care," Stefansson continued in answer to a question. "My object is to give them to the public in the cause of education.

"Now it is very difficult to make moving pictures in such cold weather as we shall encounter, and we will have to take a man for that work who possesses unusual ability, especially as he also is to be the official photographer of the expedition. Of course, many men have been suggested. The one chosen is an Englishman, Mr. George Wilkins, a professional cinematographer who has just returned from the Turkish war.

"Most of the Karluk's crew will be men used to the Arctic, and selected from the American whaling fleet, whose days of activity are now over."

On or about June 5 Stefansson expects that the Karluk will sail from Victoria, B. C., loaded to the rails with stores and equipment for the long journey in to the frozen North. The ship should reach Nome during the first week in July, and as she makes only six and a half knots at full speed, it is possible that some of the scientific staff will go to Nome by passenger ship, as that would enable them to have two weeks longer at home.

Former Expedition. The Karluk will put in at Nome only long enough to replenish all the stores and fuel consumed, on the month's voyage from Victoria, and if good luck favors she should round Point Barrow by July 25, which is the earliest date possible on account of the ice. As a matter of fact in some years the ice does not break up east of Point Barrow until September. In 1906 westerly winds brought so much ice that Mikketson and Leffingwell could not get their ship, the Duchess of Bedford, into Beaufort Sea at all, and corresponding conditions in 1908 prevented Stefansson and Anderson from receiving food supplies and brought them to the verge of starvation.

But easterly winds prevailed and Beaufort was open, free from ice, in 1907, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912. In other words, the success or failure of the expedition this first year depends entirely on the wind, and is absolutely beyond human control.

If Beaufort Sea is open and the Karluk gets to Herschel Island safely, eight men under command of Dr. Anderson will disembark and in a small gasoline schooner loaded with arms, ammunition, stores and scientific equipment will sail eastward to Victoria Island, near the region where the blonde Eskimos were found. There Dr. Anderson will establish the second base and conduct further investigations of the blonde huskies and the copper deposits, &c.

Then if the Beaufort is open and free of ice the Karluk will attempt to sail north, approximately along the meridian of 141 west, which is the meridian dividing Alaska from Canada. At this point in his narration Stefansson was asked:

"How far north will you sail along the meridian?"

"As far as we can go," he replied. "That is, until we are stopped by ice or a land mass. Scientific men here and abroad are inclined to think it will be a land mass."

"What do you yourself think?"

"I don't care to hazard a speculative guess. I'll wait and see just where we get in the Karluk. Then there will be something definite to say perhaps."

In case Beaufort Sea is piled up with ice this summer the Karluk, instead of standing north along the meridian of 141, will continue to steam eastward. Dr. Anderson's party as near as possible to the second base on Victoria Island and then point northward toward Patrick Land, where Stefansson will make his first base, and thence by dog sleds attempt to explore the unknown Arctic region indicated in the accompanying map.

The Karluk will return to Victoria, B. C., next November if good fortune attends, and will sail back to the Arctic in the summer of 1914 with fresh stores for the expedition. This will be repeated the following year, Stefansson and Anderson and their party finally coming out in the late summer of 1916.

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