

but on the one hand it was very difficult to do this work in the extreme cold (in the hold the temperature was -20° C. (-4° F.)), and on the other hand I was afraid the paint might render the canvas too hard and brittle, and apt to have holes knocked in it during transport over the ice. Therefore I preferred to steep it in a mixture of paraffin and tallow, which added somewhat to the weight of the kayaks, so that altogether they came to weigh about 36 lbs. apiece.

I had, moreover, some hand sledges made especially for this expedition; they were supple and strong, designed to withstand the severe tests to which an expedition with dogs and heavy freights over the uneven drift-ice would necessarily expose them. Two of these sledges were about the same length as the kayaks, that is, 12 feet. I also made several experiments with respect to the clothes we should wear, and was especially anxious to ascertain whether it would do to go in our thick wolf-skin garments, but always came to the conclusion that they were too warm. Thus, on November 29th, I write: "Took another walk northwards in my wolf-skin dress; but it is still too mild -35.2° F. (-37.6° C.). I sweated like a horse, though I went fasting, and quite gently. It is rather heavy going now in the dark, when one cannot use snow-shoes. I wonder when it will be cold enough to use this dress."

On December 9th again, we went out on snow-shoes. "It was -41° C. (-41.8° F.). Went in wolf-skin dress, but the perspiration poured down our backs enough to turn a mill. Too warm yet; goodness knows if it ever will be cold enough."

Of course, we made some experiments with the tent and with the cooking apparatus. On December 7th I write: "I pitched the silk tent we are going to take, and used our cooking apparatus in it. From repeated trials it appeared that from ice of -35° C. (-31° F.) we boiled 3 litres of water ($5\frac{1}{4}$ pints), and at the same time melted 5 litres