

# Canada's Northern Heritage

The latest Arctic Expedition was another Step Forward in the Development of that little known Region.

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*The accompanying article having reference to the expedition recently returned from the Canadian Arctic regions is particularly interesting in view of the fact that it is the first magazine story of the Expedition to be published. To Mr. Craig, officer in charge of the Expedition, we are indebted for this interesting narrative; also to the officials of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Branch of the Department of the Interior, by whom the Expedition was organized, who have made the publication of Mr. Craig's story possible.—Editor.*

CANADA, in her Arctic Islands, has a wonderful heritage in the north, the full value of which time alone will reveal. Then the wonder will be that its possibilities were so long overlooked. Like Alaska previous to its purchase from Russia by the United States, it is comparatively unknown, and to the



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man in the street, and probably to many who should be better informed the idea that the country north of Hudson Strait is other than a treeless barren waste, comes as a distinct shock. Treeless and barren it may be in parts, but it has other compensating features in its fisheries, its fur trade, its big game and its mineral possibilities.

Proof as to the importance of its fur and fisheries is seen in the numerous trading stations of the Hudson's Bay Company, and other companies, as well as of individual traders, established at various points, each station taking its annual toll of fur, oil and ivory. The majority of these stations naturally are in the more southerly and easterly, and so

archipelago but it is only a matter of a short time until the activities of these companies result in the establishment of trading posts in parts that are at present considered inaccessible. It is only a matter of a short time also until public interest awakens as to the mineral possibilities, and the result will be a demand for detailed geological information concerning the region, followed by or co-incident with an influx of prospectors, whose intensive work is recognized as one of the best means of acquiring mineralogical information. As a matter of fact inquiries regarding the northern islands and their mineral possibilities are not infrequent.

Coal, some of it of excellent quality, has already been found in many places, and has been used for years by traders, whalers, and others. The geological information in certain parts indicates the possible presence of oil, and among other possibilities are certain economic minerals that are known to occur in rocks of other parts of North America similar to those found in the Arctic Islands, for instance, iron, nickel, silver, gold,

pyrite, magnesite, molybdenite, graphite, mica, and many others.

Another important feature is the possibility of making the north country one of the great future sources of the world's meat supply. The reindeer industry has for several years been successfully carried on in Alaska. Many of the natives there



Capt. J. E. Bernier, Commander of the C. G. S. "Arctic".

have large herds and are real capitalists of their kind. Experiments are now being carried on in our Arctic islands with imported reindeer and certain islands and districts have been reserved as game sanctuaries suitable for further experiments along this line in the future.

## The Voyage North.

One speedily leaves behind what is generally understood as summer weather when sailing north on a voyage such as that of the past season. Leaving Quebec about the middle of July with the thermometer in the 80's and 90's, ice was first seen in the Strait of Belle Isle nine days later. It was only a small berg but an object of great interest to



C. G. S. "Arctic", in the ice at Pond's Inlet.