

temperatures have in November fallen so low and the days have become so short that the risks of navigation are seriously augmented. In estimating the period of navigation of an ordinary year, I should say from the 15th. of July to the 15th. of October, with a possibility of navigation from the 1st. of July to the 1st. of November; but in the first half of July, and indeed occasionally in the latter half, there will always be delays, and later than the 15th. of October the risks of navigation are so increased that the question of insurance will in all probability settle the date." Lieut. Gordon thus definitely limits the period of safe navigation to three months.

Commander W. Wakeham's opinion, expressed in his report eleven years later, is equally definite. He says: "I now conclude this report by saying that I absolutely agree with Capt. Gordon in fixing the date for the opening of navigation in Hudson Strait for commercial purposes by suitable vessels at from the 1st. to the 10th. of July. . . . I consider that navigation should close from the 15th. to the 20th. of October. I would not dread the ice in October, though there is always the chance of the western end of the Strait being blocked by Fox Channel ice. . . . I have already described the climatic conditions met with in October; we were favoured with a mild and comparatively calm month, yet the risks of navigation were so great that I have no hesitation whatever in saying that, after the last date which I have given above, it would be folly to think of carrying on commercial traffic through the Strait. I would therefore fix the 20th. of October as the extreme limit of safe navigation in the Fall." In other words, Commander Wakeham confirms Lieut. Gordon, both as to the opening and closing dates of navigation.

The latest word on the subject is that of Mr. A. P. Low in his report on the 1903-4 expedition. The report appeared in book form, under the title of "*The Cruise of the Neptune.*" Mr. Low's opinion on the navigation question is summed up in the following paragraph: "The period of safe navigation