

and subsequent occasions, were extremely courteous and most helpful to the Expedition.

At these settlements seventy dogs were purchased to take north for our future sledging journeys. The Eskimos had plenty of dogs for sale, and I was able to select some very good ones. Collectively, they would compare very favourably with the best sledge dogs in our own Arctic areas of the Dominion and were all what are termed "Husky" dogs and had been raised by the local natives.

On continuing our voyage, the deck cargo had been increased so much with lumber, equipment, dogs, and about five tons of dried fish for dog feed, that there was no room to walk. We were lucky to meet with very satisfactory conditions crossing Melville Bay, where we saw only a few scattered ice floes. The "Melville Pack", so well and unfavourably known to Arctic navigators, has often beset ships for weeks at a time, and not a few exploration and whaling ships have been crushed and lost trying to force their way through the immense ice-pack, which usually moves to and fro with the tides during the summer months.

We were still favoured with splendid weather when we arrived at North Star Bay, and dropped anchor at Thule Settlement, which is the headquarters of the Cape York District. Here we were met by the missionary and Mr. Hans Neilsen, the local Governor, who invited us to tea. There were many natives at the settlement awaiting the arrival of the Danish supply ship, which was now a few days behind us. The Eskimos of the farthest North districts of Greenland only see a ship from the "outside" once a year, when they come to the settlement, consequently they have had very little association with white men. Their lives are dependent entirely on their skill as hunters. Their clothes, made from Polar bear, seal, Arctic blue and white fox, and Arctic hare skins, are very picturesque, and at the same time are the most practicable form of clothing for these happy people who reside farthest North on the globe.

Destitution is practically unknown amongst these Eskimos, although North Greenland certainly could not be termed a paradise for game. Apart from migratory birds, in the short summer, their food consists almost entirely of seal, walrus and narwhal, which accounts for all the men being such experts with kyacks and harpoons. The North Greenland Eskimo, unlike his brothers in Canada and further south in Greenland, cannot go inland to hunt caribou, or live at inland lakes where fish are obtainable. The whole of the country, excepting a few narrow fringes along the coast, is covered with inland ice or "ice-cap" as it is more popularly termed. To travel inland always means a hard climb to ascend the glaciers and generally necessitates the crossing of dangerous crevasses to an altitude of two to six thousand feet, before one can reach the interior, which is the home of the blizzards and, of course, is absolutely devoid of game. It is surprising indeed that even with all these disadvantages and the dark period of the mid-winter in this latitude, these natives are the most cheerful and carefree people one could wish to meet.

I was glad to see some of my old friends among the Eskimos, who had been my travelling partners when they were attached to the Police Detachments on Ellesmere Island. After trading for more native equipment, and