

I.

FROM FLORIDA TO ST. JOHNS.

On April 7th, 1899, I received a cable from Capt. McKay. He informed me that the "Esquimaux" had arrived safely at St. Johns, Newfoundland, after a passage of 17 days.

Dr. McKenzie and self, with my valet, John Collins, accordingly packed our traps. On the 8th we left the yacht "Decoy" at Punta Rosa, Florida, and took train for New York. We arrived on the 10th. Cecil Hammond, who had come over on the "Etruria," joined us that night at the "Waldorf Astoria" Hotel.

We got through our business in New York as quickly as possible, managed to start North at 4 p.m. on April 12th, reached Boston that night, and Truro, Nova Scotia, late on the night of the 13th. There we were delayed a day owing to the indefinite news as to a boat for St. Johns. Things looked unpromising. The "Bruce," on the Sydney route, had broken down, and the railway in Newfoundland was blocked with snow. However, we left Truro on the 15th for Mulgrave, arriving in the afternoon. There again we were delayed owing to the boilers of the "Grand Lake" having to undergo survey; there was nothing for it but to wait, and meanwhile to put up at a small hotel.

On Sunday afternoon we took a walk in the thawing snow. I cannot say I enjoyed this excursion. I got over my knees into some slush.

The "Grand Lake," starting at 3 a.m. on the morning of the 17th, slowly forced her way through the loose ice in the Straits and out to sea, in thick weather.

We were out of the ice, however, after going about 90 miles, and steered for Cape Race. On the 18th it blew a hard N.E. gale with driving snow. The "Grand Lake" being very lively, the majority of the passengers were incapacitated, but at 4 p.m. on the 19th we had the