

previous triangulation the most accomplished. Our Admiralty chart shows a distance of 16,754, D'Agelot to me not to exceed

the most interesting part of the topography far exceeds the various explorations. Owing to the extremely good sources are practically

in the neighbourhood of the head of the river. I am aware that the topography, as well as myself, is of that country.

The country is interesting and comparatively level, deposited over a large area. Dawson in 1887. The mountains show that it was not Mount Wrangell at all. I report the existence of a White River. This layer is not upon stratified sands but of drift logs still quite fresh. A great scale is evident on Yukon has no tributaries for a great distance, with the fact, taken together in that direction, as seen by the mountains, seem to show that the river. Moreover, since the cause a belt of very dry weather I might mention that and as the St. Elias Alps in that river country should prove the features.

been in that part of America and instructive account. The characteristics, with the exception of the mountains, but I think Mr.

To my mind it is easier to go back, particularly over snow, while the sledging is a much

more easy process. For instance, on one occasion I hauled a sledge carrying 60 lbs. or 70 lbs. for 1100 miles, and our average day's journey was 24 miles. The snow was in fairly good condition, and we came back well. If I had been carrying that weight it would have been very difficult. I am sorry I can give no information as to work over such a very rocky country as Mr. Seton-Karr speaks of, with one exception—i. e. travelling on the west coast of Melville Peninsula, where it was impossible to haul a sledge, and we had to carry on our backs everything we required to use. Fortunately we had no tent to carry, because on these occasions I always built a snow-house, which saved an immense deal of labour, and with a single blanket in such a house one could always keep warm, even in the coldest weather. My men were all able sledge-haulers and carriers of the Hudson Bay Company. That was the most severe work I ever had in carrying a heavy load (about 500 miles) over a rough country. I trust you will excuse my making these few remarks.

Mr. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD:—I look round the room and see with regret that Mr. Topham, who read a paper last year on Mount St. Elias, is not present. I have myself no claim to speak from any personal acquaintance with the North American Continent. But I may, perhaps, say a few words on two matters that have been touched on by Mr. Seton-Karr to-night. He speaks of the curious sudden floods in the glacial streams. They may probably be accounted for in the same way as the floods from the Aletsch Glacier, which arise from the bursting of the Marjelen Sea—i. e., by the sudden breaking open of glacial lakes, many of which were noticed by Mr. Topham.

Mr. Seton-Karr has also told us that the last American expedition has knocked 4000 feet off the head of Mount St. Elias, which we had believed to rise 18,000 feet above the sea-level. Now, I do not think we ought to acquiesce hastily in this diminution of Mount St. Elias. Mr. Dall, the surveyor who is responsible for the original survey, has stated that his height does not depend on one observation but upon several. The matter is being entered into fully in America, and is at present *sub judice*. I would, however, point out that another surveyor, Mr. Allen, measured the neighbouring Mount Wrangell, and made it over 18,000 feet. Mr. Topham took a series of measurements on Mount St. Elias, and having climbed above 11,000 feet, estimated that the peak rose at least 6000 feet above him. I know a great many climbers who have under-estimated the height of a mountain above the point which they have reached, but I have never known a climber who, having only 2000 feet above him, has estimated it at over 6000. It is against probability and human nature that a climber should do so, and I shall believe in the greater height until we have much better evidence to the contrary. There is another argument in favour of Mount St. Elias. The recent attempt to reduce the height of the Mexican volcanoes to 15,000 feet has failed, and they have been restored to their old height of over 18,000 feet. In fact, it was perfectly clear to anyone acquainted with the climate of Mexico that the mountains must be above 15,000 feet in height in order to account for the glaciers upon them. With all respect for the ability of American surveyors (which, it has been said, has reduced one mountain to a depression in the earth's surface), I still hope that we may long be able to look upon Mount St. Elias as the mountain with the greatest sweep of glacier on the face of the globe.

The PRESIDENT:—I think most of us are very much obliged to Mr. Seton-Karr for having taken us for one night at least away from Africa. He has long been favourably known to the Society, and to-night he has read to us a very interesting paper. I trust that he will have the good fortune at some future period to be able to return to Alaska, of which he is much enamoured, and to make even greater discoveries than he has already made. You will, I doubt not, wish that I should, in your name