

when a new and troubled scene is opened, and the file affords no precedent, then it is that a greater knowledge of mankind and far more extensive comprehension of things is requisite, than ever office gave, or than office can ever give."

THE ICE COMMITTEE.

The co-operative ice committee has issued a circular to each member of the service in Ottawa, setting forth the terms and conditions upon which ice may be obtained for delivery next summer. Those who by accident may not have received the invitation to subscribe to the ice scheme, can get the necessary form from Mr. A. E. Caron at 87 Sparks street, between 4 and 5 o'clock p.m. January 15th is stated in the circular as the latest day applications will be received by the committee, but the time has been extended to the 18th. The price will be advanced to equal the ordinary market price as soon as the spring opens.

The ice is being cut from one of the best ice lots in this locality, namely, from the Gatineau river above the bridge, and the season promises to be propitious for a large cut of fine quality ice. Patrons will be furnished with mailing cards by which the committee may be advised of any complaints in prompt or satisfactory delivery; also tickets will be provided for the purchase of extra lumps of ice. The committee is already at work storing ice, and also delivering to winter customers.

All civil servants are requested to encourage the co-operative principle in the service by rallying round Mr. Caron and his ice committee, by inducing their friends to join the list of subscribers now open at La Banque Nationale.

A JOURNEY FROM THE YUKON TO THE MACKENZIE.

By JOSEPH KEELE.

(Continued from last issue.)

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By the 17th, we had a good trail broken up the valley for a distance of ten miles, and began our winter journey. We used the river surface as much as possible, cutting off the long bends by going through the woods.

As we had a heavy outfit, it was necessary to make six trips over the trail. We had only three dogs; for one was killed during the winter. Our usual plan was for Christie and myself to break trail ahead for about five or six miles, using small snowshoes to secure a good bottom. At the end of this distance, we tramped out a space in the shelter of some trees for the tent. This trail generally froze hard enough before the next day to carry the dogs on the surface. Riddell made two trips a day, taking three days to move our freight. He used two steel shod Yukon sleds tied close together, and loaded them with about 200 pounds each. The dogs easily moved this load on a hard clean trail; but with almost constant drifting from winds, we seldom had this ideal trail for sledding.

The month of February was the finest part of the winter, and although the average temperature was much lower than that of the preceding months, the amount of clear weather and sunshine was much greater, consequently I was able to carry on my surveying operations without much trouble. The lowest temperature was 48 degrees below zero.

Travelling on the river was made much safer by this cold weather; but the sound of roaring water under the ice in the canyons and rapids was sometimes disconcerting to us as we passed over.