

and making sledges, clothing, and a thousand and one minor preparations occupied a good deal of our time. The radio kept us in touch with world events. There was always a good supply of music available, in fact, between the radio and a portable gramophone, we generally had a continuous programme. Through the courtesy of The Canadian Radio Commission and Westinghouse Station KDKA at Pittsburg, we were able to receive news from our relatives and friends on Saturday nights. On December 23rd, we clearly heard some musical numbers especially directed to us by a dance orchestra at the Mayfair Hotel, London. We spent a most enjoyable Christmas, our Eskimos being the guests of honour. Through the kindness of Lady Shackleton, we enjoyed a splendid Christmas dinner which had been especially packed in England five months previously.

Dr. Humphreys and Haig-Thomas left at the end of January with Noocapinguaq and Inuatuk and two teams of dogs following the ice-cap route to Robertson Bay. They returned in the middle of March accompanied by a number of Eskimos. They had visited Robertson Bay and also Thule where they had communicated by wireless with England. A few days later some more Eskimos arrived with their dog teams to work for us. There was now a total of over 170 dogs in the camp, which presented quite a problem as our dog food supply was running very low. Many of the Eskimo dogs were very thin, and some of the Expedition dogs were only in fair condition for the long trek North.

Owing to the fact that we had to winter so far from Grant Land and to the fact that many of the dogs were not fully equal to such a hard trip, it was decided to change our plans and split into three parties. It was arranged that Moore, who was very keen on travelling, should accompany me to Grant Land, where, if possible, we were to explore the interior and cross to the North Coast. Shackleton and Bentham were to visit Bache Peninsula and carry out a survey as far North as possible on the East coast of Ellesmere Island, while the Doctor and Haig-Thomas would attempt a crossing of Grinnel Land where they expected to do some plane-table mapping. The six dog teams were then made up into three teams. Bentham was very considerate in giving his best dogs to Moore and myself; he was to have been my partner in a previous arrangement, and our dogs had worked well together, but owing to the change of plans it was considered that more time for Geological work would be available if Bentham did not go on the longest journey. At the request of the Doctor, I made the distribution of the Eskimos and dogs for the three parties. There were now twelve Eskimos available with dog teams, which gave each party two Eskimos for the duration of their journeys and two Eskimos with support teams, making five sledges to each party. For the next few days each party was very busy working individually and getting their dog feed and rations advanced along the trail. By April 3rd we had all started on our long journeys and were glad to be on the trail after a somewhat monotonous and inactive winter.

Sledge Journey of Grant Land Party

As I am not thoroughly conversant with details of the other sledge journeys made during the course of the Expedition, and as space will not, in any case, permit me to do them full justice, in the following account I must