

Parker Snow Bay,
December 1, 1915

Star Trenches:

The following report upon ice conditions in the waters washing parts of the shores of Ellesmerland are based upon observations made during a sledge journey over the waters named in the Spring of 1915 A. D., from March twenty sixth to June sixteenth, as part of the ^{scientific and exploratory} research prosecuted by the Crockerland Expedition, ~~and~~ ^{under the au-} ~~supervised~~ ^{supervision} of the American Museum of Natural History, ~~and the American Geographical Society, with the cooperation of the University of Illinois.~~ ^{Smith Sound} - The upper reaches of the fjord north of a line from Cairn Point, Inglefield Land to Brewster Island and Cape Sabine, froze over rather late in the season, but this belt of new ice formed across the sound along the ^{edge of the} ice in Kane Basin was smooth as a floor, ~~but~~ little disturbed by leads or pressure ridges, and barely covered with snow. The ice about the mouth of Pouke Fjord, Lyttelton Island, ^{and} along the land from Cape Ohlsen to Cairn Point was very broken and rough, having been crushed up by a southerly gale early in the season. The ice about Lyttelton Island began going out about June first. Cape Hatherton and Cairn Point were clear before June sixteenth.

Payer Harbor -

The ice in Payer Harbor was smooth except in the northern portion, where much old ice and a number of icebergs were congregated, and where the new ice had been considerably pressed up and crushed. About Walknecht Island the ice was very rough, and between the island and the mainland.

Rice Strait -

The ice in the southern reaches of Rice Strait, as during the winter of 1913-14, was smooth and swept clear of snow. The northern portion was smooth but covered with hard-packed snow to the depth of from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ metre.

Buchanan Sound.

In Buchanan Sound, as was the case in the winter of 1913-14, the ice was much broken, apparently soon after the first freezing, and numerous icebergs and pans of old ice were frozen in. These facts and the deep snow made sledging difficult here.



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Plagler Fjord

The ice in The outer half of Plagler Fjd. was smooth and swept clear of snow. The inner half was rough and hummocky, the ice not having gone out the preceding summer; nowhere in Plagler Fjd. was the snow soft and deep as it was in most of the extent of Beitstedt Fjd, the preceding year.

Bay Fjord.

In Bay Fjord the ice was uniformly smooth, unbroken by pressure or wind ridges and absolutely free from icebergs throughout its extent. It was, however, deeply covered with snow, soft in the upper reaches, but packed enough in the lower portions to sustain the weight of sledges. Because of the limited range of the tidal movement in Eureka Sound and its tributary waters, the ice foot and tidal crack are not nearly so pronounced as on the east coast of the land.

Eureka Sound.

From the mouth of Bay Fjord to the north end of Fosheim Peninsula, the ice in Eureka Sound was generally smooth, though somewhat disturbed and broken up. The disturbance occurred when the ice was about five centimeters thick, and affected the whole extent mentioned. Though not packed into ridges of great consequence, many slabs and points projected. The snow was not deep and having been well packed by the wind, made travelling rather easy.

Blidre Fjd.

Across from Fosheim Peninsula, to Schie Island and northward and northwestward as far as the eye could see, the ice was very rough, thrown into great heaps and ridges, and piled up on the shore of the peninsula by a northwest wind when the ice had been frozen to a thickness of about two decimeters. Northward from the point of Fosheim Peninsula to Blaaberg this same rough ice prevailed.

In the reaches of Eureka Sound south of Blidre Fjord only a few icebergs had been frozen in, but north and these were small, but northward of this portion and off Fosheim Peninsula ~~both~~ both the number and size increased.



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Canow Fjord.

Canow Fjord was a succession of new smooth ice, and reaches of hummocky old ice. The entire extent of the fjord was swept clear of snow by ^{the} prevailing southerly winds. Only a few icebergs, drifted in from Greeley Fjord apparently, were scattered about. Sledging was good the entire length of the Fjord.

Greeley Fjord.

Greeley Fjord and its tributaries, like Canow Fjord, was a succession of new smooth ice and hummocky old ice, but covered throughout by a great depth of snow. This snow was of two kinds: a lower layer about three decimeters in depth, solidly packed; and an upper layer of loose, soft, undrifted snow, from three to five decimeters in depth. This latter snow made sledging difficult. A number of transverse pressure ridges of ice extended across the fjord, formed apparently before the ice was frozen thick.

In the lower portion of the fjord the icebergs are not numerous, but usually large. In the upper portion of the fjord they are large and numerous, born from the head of the glacier at the head of the fjord, and from three glaciers in a fjord tributary to Greeley Fjord on the north side.

Chandler Fjord and Discovery Harbor

The upper reaches of Chandler Fjord were largely rough and hummocky stretches of old ice, with one rather long stretch of smooth ice. All the upper portions were swept clear of snow.

About Miller Island the ice was rough and the snow deep. From Sun Bay northward almost to Bellot Island the ice was smooth but covered deep with soft snow. All of Discovery Harbor was rough and covered with snow.

Lady Franklin Bay - In L. F. Bay the ice was everywhere rough, the snow deep.

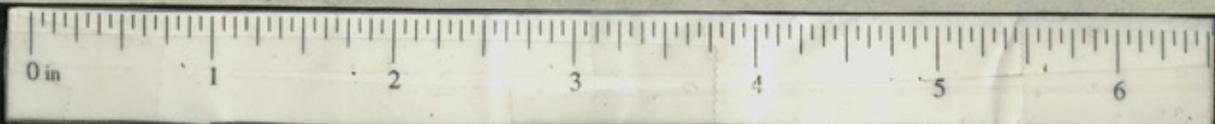
Hall Basin.

Hall Basin, except a relatively narrow strip along the Greenland shore was a chaotic field of extremely rough ice and pressure ridges with much snow. As far north as the vision could discern even with powerful glasses, Hall Basin and ^{Robeson} ~~Robeson~~ Channel were rough and chaotic.



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About
~~Hobson~~ Kennedy Channel

About Cape Baird the same chaotic condition of the ice pertained as in Hall Basin, but about ^{3 1/2} four kilometers south of Cape Baird the strip of smooth ice along the east shore of Hall Basin extended westward across the entire channel. For a distance ^{southward} of forty or more miles, sixty-four kilometers perhaps, the ice was smooth as glass, entirely free of snow (swept clean by fierce, northerly winds) and unbroken except by two considerable new leads of open water.

Just north of Hans Island the ice was crushed into a great pressure ridge, and from this ridge southward the ice was one unbroken chaos of ridges and piles, resembling an Alpine cordillera. The ice about Franklin Island was almost impassable; indescribably chaotic, except for a smooth belt that extended across from the southeast corner of the island to Cape Constitution.

On June fifth a great lead and pool of open water had formed off Cape Constitution and a similar area of open water lay off Cape Calhoun.

Kane Basin.

The ice of Kennedy Kane Basin, off Cape Calhoun, the Humboldt Glacier (Peabody Bay) and Inglefield Land was generally rough and covered with deep snow. Great pans of old ice, and numerous and massive icebergs calved from the Humboldt glacier, were scattered about in the ice of Peabody Bay. Many high ridges of shattered ice had been piled up when the ice had frozen the preceding autumn.

Respectfully
A. Edmer Ekblaw,
Geologist, Crockerland Expedition.

To Mrs Peter Prechen
Umanak, Thule,
Northwest Greenland.





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Extract from Peter French's letter of Dec 12,
1915.

"Further on I can offer to the gentlemen of your party, who don't go, house here at Umanak. Hendrik Olsen is leaving his house in February. He will let Mr. Ekblaw and Capt. Comer have his big room until he goes and then the whole house. He has a fine servant able to make bread and cook - some. Dr. Harriet wants - if he stays - to sleep in my house and walk up and eat with Mr. Ekblaw every day. Of course Capt. Comer can do the same thing if it is more convenient, what I think. Hendrik want his kerosene and coal replaced but no payment."



Umanak, Thule.
May 1, 1916.

Peter Freuchen, Esq;

My dear Peter:

Just a word of greeting that Dr. Hunt and I send you as an anticipatory welcome to North Star Bay. I hope you and your men are all right, that Park, Allen, and Green got safe to Holstenborg, and that you feel satisfied with your trip.

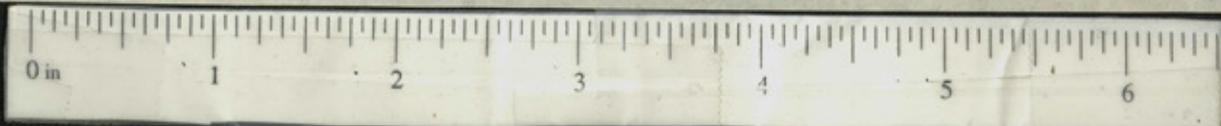
Everything here is going along all right. Dr. Hunt has advised and urged Dr. Hovey to stay aboard the Cluett for a time longer, and if no ship comes up to go home on her. I have concurred in the advice; in fact on my way down from Etah, I had concluded independently of Dr. Hunt, that this course would be best for Dr. Hovey, and that I should so advise him.

You have probably heard of the death of Oobloyak's wife at Kangerdlukssuaq, of the birth of the baby there, and to Deervee at Etah. The news of the tribe Thetok and Itukisuk will tell you.

Dr. Hunt is now at Umanak. Many Eskimos keep coming to trade with Hendrick. The gyrfalcon and snow-bunting came some time ago; we think the fulmar is at Akpat today or before.

Good luck to you and your men. We hope that you will bring when you come the news that Germany is vanquished and the world at peace.

Sincerely yours
Ek.



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blaw's discretion
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Geo. Hoover
for the am. Mus. Nat. Hist.
13 May, 1916.

For 13 foxes, as I can not accept
as complete foxes, I may offer

For 4 blue ones	3 doll. a piece	= 12 —
" 6 "	2 " " "	= 12 —
" 2 white "	1 " a piece	= 2 —
" 1 blue "	0.5 "	= .50
		<hr/>
		26, 50

In all 26 doll 50 cent for
those 13 foxes.

12. of may 1916

John Truesden

To
Mr. Eblaw
North Star Bay



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DEED
BY SCHWELL
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Received from m. Ebbelaw,
The Crocker-Land Expedition:

37	complete	fores,	blue	a	5	dollars	185	—
4	incomplete	"	"	a	3	"	12	—
6	"	"	"	a	2	"	12	—
1	"	"	"	a	0,5	"	—	50

In all doll. 209,50

is: two hundred nine dollar fifty cent

Thule 16. of may 1916
Peter Freuchen
/s/

To
The Crocker Land Expedition



