

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WINTER IN GREENLAND

The winter of 1930-31 was the first during which weather observations were maintained at fixed stations in the interior of Greenland, and the results of those made at a German station, in charge of Dr. J. Georgi, have lately been reported. The station was on the great ice cap midway between Umanak and Scoresby Sound, at an altitude of 9,840 feet above sea level.

The mean temperature of the coldest month, February, was 53 degrees below zero, and the lowest individual reading was 84 degrees below. These figures are of popular interest because some authorities have thought that the high interior of Greenland rather than northern Siberia may be the real "winter cold pole" of the earth. The Greenland figures for the single winter in question do not rival those observed in the coldest winters at Verkhoyansk, Siberia, but it is possible that much colder winters than 1930-31 sometimes occur on the ice cap. The highest single temperature measured in summer at the ice cap station was 22 above zero, while in northern Siberia the summer readings occasionally go up to 90 or higher.

Instead of the calm weather hitherto supposed to prevail in central Greenland in winter, brisk winds prevailed, and once, in January, the wind reached a velocity of 40 miles an hour. Some measurements of the annual layers of glacier snow are said to indicate an average yearly precipitation of nearly 12 1/2 inches.

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