

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 14, 1932.

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Authority on Meteorology.

ARCTIC AIR

In an instructive account of Arctic climate, Ludwig Mecking says: "The great dryness and cold during the longest part of the year have a potent conserving effect. The Eskimos make use of this in gathering their meat supplies. Depots of previous expeditions have been eaten decades later. Driftwood high above the present beach looks as if it had just drifted in. The dryness creates a torturing thirst among Europeans. The air is almost wholly free of bacilli; respiratory diseases are rare, although the change in temperature on leaving or entering a dwelling may often amount to more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

"The air augments vital energy, which is diminished, however, by the lack of light. This creates depressional and apathetic conditions, but only in the case of Europeans; the Eskimo is psychically adjusted to this condition, and it is precisely in the dark period that he has his happiest celebrations, as at that time he cannot go hunting so much and lives on his provisions. It is easier to support than the warmth of summer, which is accompanied by greater humidity and by the torment of mosquitoes, and which creates the impression of a tropical climate when the temperature is only about 40."

If such facts as these do not greatly interest the average American citizen today, they will soon. Regular flying routes between America and Europe via the Arctic are on the cards for the next few years.

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