



THE PHOTOGRAPHS

1. The patrol's summer camp on the Coppermine river.
2. Native guides. The figure at the right is that of a woman.
3. Crossing an open ice-field in Bathurst Inlet.
4. Inspector French in summer costume.
5. French and natives, after a successful seal hunt.
6. Part of the unexplored range of mountains, discovered by the French patrol.
7. A girl of the Ivilik tribe of Eskimos, at Baker's Lake.
8. The party upon its return to Baker Lake. Standing, at the left is Kihlman, the sailor marooned on the Arctic coast whom French rescued and brought back to civilization. Sitting, at left, is Sergt.-Major Caulkin, and at right, Inspector French. The two natives were guides who accompanied the patrol.
9. Inspector French in winter costume. No. 10. The island where Explorers Radford and Street were murdered by Eskimos.



Royal Northwest Mounted Police that no crime shall occur within its jurisdiction without investigation and without the criminals being brought to justice.

It was on the return journey that the party had to spend 12 days in crossing the broken ice on Coronation Gulf. In that time they travelled from 175 to 200 miles, most of the time in imminent danger of death by drowning, because snow had drifted and covered many of the smaller cracks in the ice. Several times one or more of the men fell into the icy water, to be rescued by his comrades. The smaller cracks the men jumped, pulling the dogs and sleighs after them. The larger ones they traversed in a canoe, making the dogs swim.

During the journey Inspector French made scientific notes, some of which may prove to be very valuable to the government.

All of the Eskimos encountered along the Arctic coast were the kind Stefansson claims to have first discovered. Stefansson called them the "Blonde Eskimos," but French terms them "Copper Eskimos." They are nomadic, travelling in bands of from six to 150. For the most part they are friendly, although natives told French of a "big war" that was fought in 1912 at White Bear Point in Queen Maud's sea. The war resulted in 23 being killed, according to the stories repeated to the officer.

The Eskimos appear to have no religion, although they evidently believe in a hereafter for men, because they shout confessions of their sins when death seems imminent. The natives believe there is no after-life for females.

Many of the customs of the natives are described by Inspector French as revolting. The rigors of the climate, as well as the savage state of the Eskimos, make the survival of the fittest and death to the weaklings the law of the land.

The natives are polygamous, some men having several wives and some women having more than one husband. There is no marriage ceremony. Infants are pledged to marriage by their parents, and enter the marital state when they have reached the age of 17 or 18. It is not an uncommon occurrence, according to the Inspector, for husbands to trade wives. Skins, food, and any kind of a trinket are legal tender in such transactions.

Under the customs of the country all male children belong to the father and all females to the mother. It is a common practice for mothers to let their girl babies die at birth or, when they are allowed to live, if they ever become a hindrance to their mothers they are thrown through a crack in the ice or left in an igloo to perish from starvation and exposure. Inspector French, through interpreters, lectured every tribe on this subject, telling the natives that they must take care of their children or the Mounted Police would be after them for murder.

The only insect the party encountered was the mosquito, which thrives in the summer time.

Following is a summary of the diary kept by Inspector French:

The long chase began August 11th, 1916, when Inspector French set sail from Montreal on the ice-breaker *Mascopie* with a complete outfit of supplies and a complete outfit of supplies.

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INSPECTOR FRENCH GIVES FIRST DETAILED ACCOUNT OF 5,000-MILE MAN-HUNT

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Never again! One 5,000-mile walk is about enough for a lifetime!

It was Inspector French speaking; Inspector French of the Royal North-West Mounted Police, now Lieut. French of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to Siberia. He had been asked if he intended ever to undertake another journey such as the one he has just completed—the 5,000-mile patrol above the Arctic circle that solved the mystery of the murder of the explorers, Radford and Street.

"I will never make that trip again," he went on, "unless, of course, I have orders to do so. I have had enough of that kind of travel to satisfy me. If I ever go into that country again, it will be by boat."

Inspector French's next series of adventures is destined to be in Siberia, where he is going as a lieutenant with a squadron of cavalry recruited under the standard of the Mounted Police. The inspector would have been in Siberia a month sooner if it had not been for a severe attack of Spanish influenza, which confined him to Regina hospital for eighteen days.

As soon as he was released from the hospital he was prevailed upon to give to the public, for the first time, a comprehensive account of his patrol.

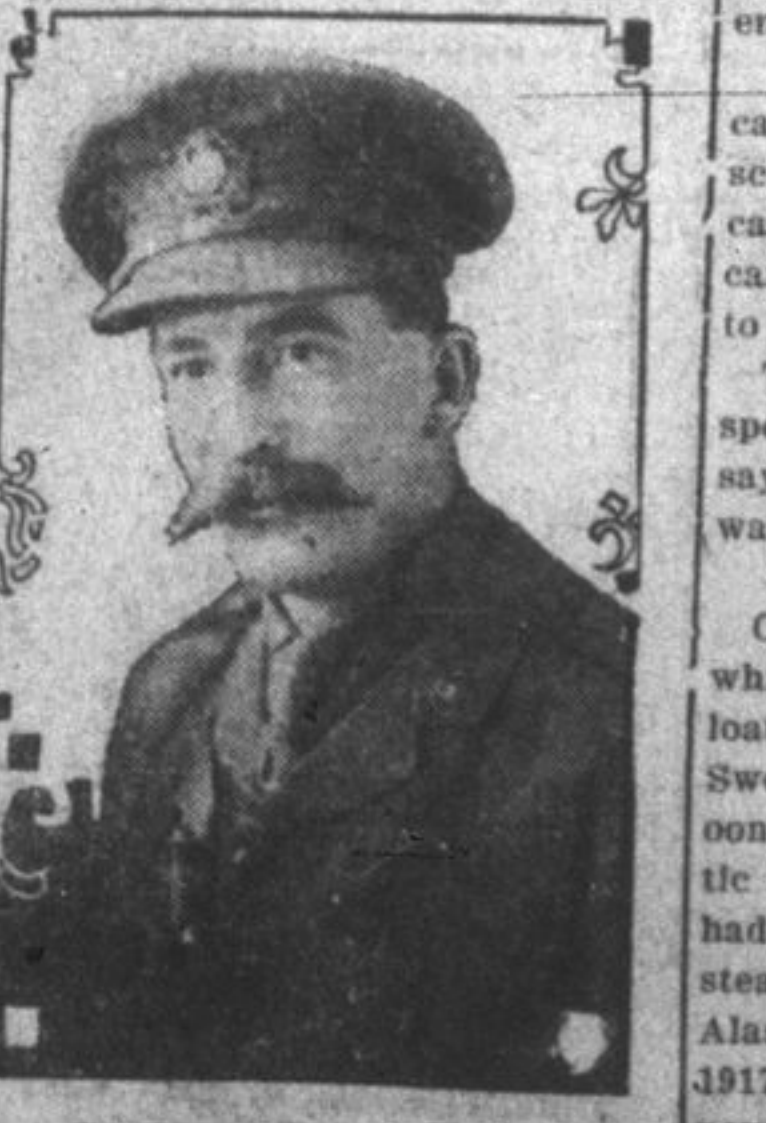
Like most men who do big things, light of day at Qu'Appelle, Sask., at the time when the scarlet-coated policeman were the Alpha and Omega of law and order on the Canadian plains. He actually "signed up" with the force as soon as he was old enough to pass the recruiting officers and he has served continuously and with distinction ever since.

In the records of the famous force, which now appears to be passing into oblivion as rapidly as scheming politicians can kill it off without arousing the people of the west, French's patrol will go down as the longest and most hazardous ever undertaken.

Nothing in the proud history of the Mounties, whose fame as relentless pursuers of wrong-doers has made their name a synonym for police efficiency throughout the world, can equal Inspector French's achievement in carrying British justice to the earth's rim in the ice-bound Arctic regions.

The object of the expedition was to solve the mystery of the murder in 1913 of Bradford and Street, explorers, sent into the far north by the Smithsonian Institute, of New York, and to demonstrate to the primitive Eskimos who inhabit the Arctic coast that the arm of British law is long, that it extends wherever the elements permit human being to exist.

And Inspector French achieved his objective. About two and one-half years after he left The Pas to undertake the expedition, he appeared one day not long ago at the Ottawa office of the Mounted Police, saluted and reported that he had done his duty.



INSPECTOR FRENCH.

He had traced the murderers to an island in the Arctic ocean, established by thorough investigation that they had killed the explorers in self-defence, and obtained conclusive proof in the form of records left by the explorers themselves that they incited the Eskimos to murder.

In carrying the law farther north than any white officer had ever done before, Inspector French covered more than 5,000 miles, mostly by dog-team. For more than two years he and his party were in constant danger of death from freezing or starvation or at the hands of wild bands of Eskimos. Twice during that time they ran

out of supplies and were on the point of perishing in the barren wastes of ice, snow and rock, 1,500 miles from the nearest outpost of civilization, when providentially saved by the appearance of herds of wild animals.

Many times the party was reduced to slender rations of thin soup—a weak diet for men running all day behind swiftly loping dogs, struggling through blinding blizzards when the temperature stood between 50 and 70 degrees below zero. It was a common occurrence to eat their meat raw, when no moss with which to build a fire could be found. On three occasions the men killed some of the dogs to feed the others, and looked on with envious eyes and empty stomachs.

Twelve days they spent on floating cakes of ice, risking life and limb scores of times a day leaping from cake to cake, or launching a frail canoe when the cracks were too wide to jump.

These are some of the things Inspector French has in mind when he says, "Never again: one 5,000 mile walk is enough."

One feature of the patrol, about which Inspector French is most loathe to talk, was the rescue of a Swedish sailor, who had been marooned "for many months on the Arctic coast. The sailor, Albert Kihlman, had been navigating officer on the steamship *Teddy Bear*, from Nome, Alaska, which entered the Arctic in 1917 on a trading expedition and has never been heard from since. Kihlman had quarrelled with the captain, who took his revenge by putting the navigating officer off on the bleak coast.

When French encountered him in September, 1917, Kihlman had been on the coast for eight months, living with a band of natives. He never hoped to see civilization again.

French allowed him to travel with the party, to share its supplies and its protection, and brought him back to Baker Lake, whence he got transportation to the provinces. The last French heard of Kihlman he was in Vancouver.

Even in these times, when accounts of extraordinary human courage glut the newspapers, the record of

French's patrol ranks as a remarkable example of high endeavor and supreme valor.

It was during the summer of 1913 that news reached Ottawa of the murder of Radford and Street, who had ventured into the unmapped country around Bathurst Inlet. The crime, it was rumored, had been committed, under provocation, but it was a crime, nevertheless, committed on British soil under the jurisdiction of the Mounted Police. Not satisfied with the meagre details that reached them through indirect channels, the police officials decided to dispatch a patrol to clear up the mystery and bring the criminals to justice. In the autumn of 1916 French started out with a party consisting of Sergt.-Major T. B. Caulkin, Corp. W. C. Douglas, Constable C. B. Cromble, and Constable A. L. Chinn, all members of the Mounted Police, and four natives. The actual patrol which made the difficult part of the journey, consisted only of French, Caulkin and the four natives. The distance travelled by these six men—in the dead of winter because dog-teams could not travel in the summer—was 5,193 miles, across bleak ice-fields and barren wastes on which there was not a shrub, not even a blade of grass, nothing except a certain kind of moss on which the wild animals of the region subsist. The territory traversed included a large mountain range and a vast expanse of plain that never before had been explored. The patrol carried a certain quantity of supplies, all that the 35 dogs could conveniently haul, but long before it reached its destination, the supplies were exhausted and the travellers had to depend upon that barren wilderness for their sustenance.

Twice, after travelling for days without food through blizzards and cyclonic wind storms, with a temperature around 65 degrees below zero, the party was saved from starvation by encountering herds of wild animals that appeared providentially when the patrol could not have proceeded farther without meat.

Another time they were lost for days in a terrific blizzard, with nothing but thin soup to eat. The day after

Inspector French wrote in his diary "Have had not solid food for two days and everyone is getting weak; dogs are dropping in their harness from weakness; this looks like our last patrol." a herd of deer appeared on the horizon and the situation again was saved.

Thus the patrol triumphed over all adversities. It carried white man's law farther than ever before; it vindicated once more the boast of the

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