

JAMES BAY GAME PRESERVE

[From *Domar* (Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa), Vol. 1, No. 8, 1948, p. 14–15.]

Under the Northwest Territories game regulations, James Bay area, the southern lobe of Hudson Bay, was recently declared a native hunting and trapping preserve.

This northern area, roughly 250 miles long by 100 miles wide, has been set aside to prevent depletion of wild life by hunters and to safeguard it in the interests of Indians, Eskimos and half-breeds, who live on the islands and the mainland and depend on these resources for food.

The James Bay Game Preserve includes all of the bay south of a straight line drawn from Cape Henrietta Maria, Ontario, to Cape Jones, P.Q., and all the islands in the bay, with the exception of Twin Islands where hunting is completely prohibited. Only Indians, Eskimos, and half-breeds living as natives, may hunt or trap in this preserve.

The two largest islands in the new preserve, Akimiski Island (approximately 90 square miles) and Charlton Island (90 square miles) were leased to the Hudson's Bay Company some years ago for beaver farming, a project by which the natives have benefited. Polar Bears also frequent some of the islands, the most southerly point where they are found.

James Bay is rich in wild fowl, and is the nesting ground for Canadian Geese, Black Ducks, Pintails, and Green-winged Teal. During the migration season, especially in autumn, thousands of geese and ducks that nest over wide areas of northern Canada, travel south and gather on the waters of James Bay. Since 1931, a game sanctuary has been established at Twin Islands and bird sanctuaries at Akimiski Island, Hannah Bay and Boatswain Bay Island.

The completion of the railway to Moosonee, at the southern end of James Bay, has put an end to the isolation of this part of northern Canada, and makes it readily accessible to hunters. The recent use of aircraft to land hunting parties has added to the difficulty of enforcing game laws. To carry on enforcement effectively, northern game officers must now take to the air, equipped to outrange and outfly the hunters. Arrangements are being made to assign additional officers to the area to use aircraft to patrol the new James Bay Preserve.

UNITED STATES EXERCISE "SNOWDROP", 1948

[Summarised from an article in the *New York Times*, 7 February 1948.]

Exercise "Snowdrop" was the code-name given to an airborne training exercise held at Pine Camp, New York, early in 1948, in which units of the 82nd Airborne Division under the command of Lieut.-Col. Wienecke took part. Recent experiments in Alaska had led General Jacob L. Devers, the Army Ground Forces Commander, to report that large-scale military operations by surface units in the Arctic are virtually impossible. General Devers pointed out that in such conditions the soldier can have little time to engage the enemy because he is employed in a constant struggle against the

cold. Lieut.-Col. Wienecke confirmed General Devers's emphasis on the survival factor, but the exercise confirmed the practicability of small-scale operations being carried out over snow-covered regions in conditions of extreme cold by ordinary troops, rather than by highly trained specialised units.

Exercise "Snowdrop" has not only considerably influenced American strategic concepts, but has also given valuable experience in problems of supply, clothing, shelter, equipment and subsistence. It was observed that bulky stores must be rapidly flown in to provide adequate protection against the cold, and that casualties will mount rapidly. Clothing at present in use is cumbersome and heavy and, since fur is not available in sufficient quantity, special fibre-glass clothing must be developed to provide warmth without weight. Ski and snowshoe bindings must also be simplified. Finally, the preparation of frozen tinned food and drinking water are problems complicated by warfare conditions, as a fire may draw unwelcome attention. The effect of snow and ice on weapon efficiency, and difficulties created by the freezing of oil are also being studied.

RATIONS OF THE SOVIET NORTH POLAR DRIFT, 1937-38.

[Based on information in *Pitanie Papanintsev na dreyfuyushchey l'dine* [*The food of Papanin and his companions on the drifting ice*] by M. F. Belyakov. Moscow, Gostorgizdat [State Trade Publishing House], 1939.]

The food provided for the four members of the Soviet North Polar Drift Expedition of 1937-38 was the subject of careful consideration and research by the Institute of Public Nutrition Engineers at Moscow. Every effort was made to improve on the rations of previous expeditions with regard to nutritional value, ease of preparation and taste.

| | Grammes (oz.) | Calories |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Fresh butter | 100 (3) | 813 |
| White bread rusks with meat | 225 (8) | 785 |
| Lard | 100 (3) | 681 |
| Powdered meat and preserved meat | 161 (6) | 498 |
| Chocolate | 100 (3) | 492 |
| Sugar | 100 (3) | 409 |
| Condensed milk | 100 (3) | 318 |
| Rye bread rusks | 75 (2) | 335 |
| Powdered egg | 40 (1) | 206 |
| All other items | 573 (21) | 1713 |
| Total | 1574 (53) | 6250 |

It should be borne in mind that the object was not to prepare sledging rations. The party proposed to remain throughout on the same drifting icefloe, only moving away if it became impossible to stay on the original floe. Also the food was designed, not for a comparatively short sledging journey, but for a drift of up to 22 months. The only factor demanding lightness in weight was the limitation imposed by air transport of men and stores to the expedition's starting-point at the North Pole. On the other hand, the rations could not be similar to those appropriate for an expedition wintering at a base-hut. There